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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



Buy-out creates China's first private railway

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Vibrant culture at yogurt festival



A masked dancer performs lhamo, or Tibetan opera, at Shotun, Lhasa's annual 'yogurt festival'. CFP Photo

'Poisoned' milk powder sent back to US

By Gan Tian

More than 100 tons of 'poisoned' powdered milk imported from the United States has been sent back after dangerously high nitrite levels were discovered in the powder.

A spokesman for the Beijing entry-exit inspection and quarantine bureau said the powdered milk was sent in three batches to China,

containing 2.8 mg, 4.4 mg, and 2.7 mg of nitrite for every kilogram respectively. The safe limit is just two milligrams per kilogram. Just 0.5 grams is enough to poison an adult and three grams can kill.

The milk powder, worth US\$200,000, was produced by West Farm Inc. It has all been sent back to the US under the supervision of the

administration. None of the powder entered the Chinese market.

All imported food must pass the quality supervision checking procedures and must meet with China's national standards before entering the Chinese market, according to Li Yuaping, Beijing's director of import and export food safety.

Former drug users in needle exchange program

By Annie Wei

Chaoyang Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recruited 12 former intravenous drug users to start work in a needle-exchange program among people injecting narcotics.

Chaoyang CDC said the new recruits would be trained and hired as CDC staff, rather than being volunteers. After training, they will have official documentation and will collaborate with local police in different communities. When they provide free and clean needles to the other drug users, their documentation will prevent them from being arrested for drug offences.

The needle-exchange program started in Chaoyang CDC one year ago, as part of efforts to help in HIV/STD prevention. Last year, the center recruited three former drug users as volunteers, who helped to distribute 18,000 needles to other drug users, and persuaded them to take HIV tests.

According to Beijing police, there were 26,000 drug users registered in 2004, with most having taken drugs for around six to 10 years. Some 60 percent had returned to regular drug use after compulsory detoxification programs.

Li Dongliang, manager of Chaoyang CDC's sexual disease and HIV prevention programs, said although the center could not provide much money for their newly recruited staff, they were confident that they had the resources to carry on the program.

Beijing's Health Bureau announced plans for needle-exchange centers in eight other district CDCs, based on the experience of Chaoyang CDC.

KTV price hike following copyright clampdown

By Chu Meng

China's KTV clubs will have to pay music and video copyright owners a fee of 12 yuan per room per day, the National Copyright Administration announced on Monday.

Wang Ziqiang, spokesman for the National Copyright Administration, said KTV clubs should pay the copyright fees, not consumers. "The previous KTV prices should have included copyright fees. And

KTV owners should not transfer prices to consumers," he said.

The most popular KTV chain, Party World in Beijing, put its prices up by 50 per cent just days after the announcement. For example, the price of a mid-sized room on a weekend peak hour went up from 235 yuan to 330 yuan per hour.

However, a spokesman for Party World denied that the price hike was related to the new fee, saying it was simply due to a service

and equipment upgrade. But Bao Lei, a customer at Party World, said the only thing that had changed at the club were the prices.

Representing copyright owners, the Music Copyright Society of China and the China Audio-Video Collective Management Association submitted the draft to the National Copyright Administration for approval earlier this month. It states that KTV clubs must pay the fee once a year

to cover copyright for music and music videos.

Industry insiders said that the price hike at Party World could make more KTV clubs follow suit.

But Wang also admitted that major KTV clubs in China have paid the Music Copyright Society of China for using music in the past. Xinhua has reported that the society previously collected about 60 million yuan every year.

Amateur radio enthusiasts search for missing mum

By Jiang Xubo

'Ham' amateur radio operators in Tiantongyuan, a community in northern Beijing, are using the airwaves to search for an elderly mum who has been missing for over a week.

"She has been lost for several days now," said her son Wei Jisheng. "She was last seen looking tired and haggard. And she can only speak Zhuang minority language - she can't understand Mandarin."

81-year-old Qin Feng'e, from Guangxi Zhuang Minority Autonomous Region who has lived in the community with her son for only one year, went out early in the morning last Friday and got lost, wearing a brown knitted bonnet and carrying a big blue handbag but with no money or food.

Her worried son reported his mother's loss to the police and posted a notice on the community's forum last weekend.

The community's radio-club called for help from 'hams' across the city and launched a search for the woman on Tuesday evening. Several dozen people scoured the large community and areas nearby, exchanging clues via their personal radios and delivering printed fliers with the woman's picture along the way. The search lasted for some six hours and extended late into the evening, but they failed to find her.

"I have lived in the community for five years, but we don't talk too much. It is a surprise that so many people ran to our help," said Wei.

"Radio is a convenient tool for communication. We just want to find the woman as soon as possible and reunite her with her family," said Zhi Lidong, a key member of the club who took part in organizing the search. "It is in our spirit to help people in need with our skills and equipment."

The search for Feng'e continues. Anyone with knowledge of her whereabouts should call her son, Wei Jisheng, on 84820366 or 13071199444.

Immortals immortalized



The third Chinese Folk Artcrafts exhibition opened Wednesday at the Beijing International Exhibition Center.

Xinhua Photo

Stray dog hotline hopes to curb spread of rabies

By Jiang Xubo

Government chiefs have published a hotline telephone number in their latest bid to hunt down unlicensed pet dogs and stray dogs to curb the spread of rabies.

Pet dogs without licenses or stray dogs will be locked up and sent to dog remand centers where they will receive rabies vaccine injections and compulsory registration. Dogs infected with rabies will be slaughtered in a humane way, according to the municipal

office for dog administration.

Informants can call the police on the new hotline number, 6973 8604.

The capital has confirmed five cases of human rabies in the first half of this year (one local and four migrant). In addition, around 70,000 people in the capital have been bitten by dogs in the first half of this year, up around 30 percent on that of last year, according to a report issued this week by the MHB.

announced this week.

Around 300,000 dogs across the city were vaccinated against rabies in July. And some 220,000 dogs are still covered by their last injection. Over 550,000 dogs in the capital have been registered this year, up some 20 percent on that of last year, according to a report issued this week by the MHB.

All registered dogs are entitled to free rabies vaccine injections thanks to the city's dog administration regulations.

Stone bridge in the Temple of Heaven 'can cure disease'

By Han Manman

Danbi Bridge, the main path in the Temple of Heaven that connects the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest with the Imperial Vault of Heaven is being used as a 'therapy bed' by dozens of residents.

Every evening, locals flock to the area with their bed sheets to lie on the bridge in the belief that the stone from which it is built can cure disease. As there is no park management regulation to prohibit it, visitors and tour guides have to try to turn a blind eye to the matter.

The 'physical therapy' enthusi-

asts tend to be middle-aged females. Once they have found a good spot, they will place their bed sheets on the ground and lie down.

Mrs Zhang, who has been coming to the bridge for the last few weeks, said the place could cure diseases because the marble pavement absorbs daylight and is still warm in the evening. She claimed that lying on the pavement has a curative effect on pain in the lower back and legs.

"I don't know how to explain this to our foreign visitors," said a travel guide from the Shun Xin

Travel Agency. "Some ask me why these people lie on the ground here but I don't know how to explain it to them." She added that she thought it was rude of people to lie on the marble pavement with bed sheets and slippers and said it would have a bad impact on the visitor's impression of the Temple of Heaven.

The park managers say there is nothing to stop people lying on the ground. Doctor Li Dong from Chinese Medicine Department, Peking University Third Hospital said, "I've never heard that marble can cure disease."

Pets tagged with microchips

By Chu Meng

Beijing's pet owners will be able to embed their four-legged friends with microchips from next month when a hi-tech pet search scheme is launched in the city.

Vets from the Beijing Stock-bred Association (BSA) are offering the tracking service to owners who want to keep close tabs on their cats or dogs. For 100 yuan, the vets inject a microchip, the size of a grain of rice, under the skin of the animals. Each chip contains information about the pet's owners, including their names and addresses. If the animal is found wandering the streets, the chip can be scanned and the pet returned to its owners.

Pet owner Yu Jun said the scheme was a great idea. "My dog Chasmire was lost for a week once. That alone prompted me to want to do something like this," she said.

Vets say the microchips pose no threat to the animal's health. Once under the skin the microchip is permanent, unlike a conventional dog tag.

"You can lose a collar," said one BSA vet, "that happens all the time. This you are not going to lose. It has a little tiny hole inside. The chip will embed in there. And the pet's tissue will quickly heal after the operation. The chip isn't going anywhere."

New media to play important role in broadcasting Beijing Olympics

By Chen Shasha

New media is set to play a crucial role in the broadcasting of the 2008 Olympic Games, say organizers.

Speaking at the 2006 International Sports Forum held yesterday, Ma Guoli, COO of the Beijing Olympic broadcasting company and former president of CCTV sports, said: "New media will compliment traditional TV and play an important role in broadcasting the 2008 Olympic games."

Hundreds of broadcasting bosses from Chinese and foreign companies attended the forum to discuss the broadcasting of the Games.

"A successful Olympics lies not only in the event itself, but also in live broadcasts which can reach every part of the globe," said Jiang Xiaoyu, executive vice-president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for 2008 Games.

More than 200 TV companies have been granted the broadcasting rights to the Beijing Olympics. "But it's not enough," Sun Yusheng, the Vice-President of CCTV said. He claimed that CCTV would use more than five satellite channels to broadcast the Olympics. More than three digital channels and one HD (High Definition Television) channel will also be used.

Buy-out creates China's first private railway

By Han Manman

A Shenzhen-based private company, Zhongji, announced Tuesday it has signed an agreement to acquire 100 percent of shares in the formerly state-owned Guangdong Luoding Railway, for 48.16 million yuan (US\$6 million). The announcement was both a milestone for private rail in China and a breakthrough for the policy issued by the central govern-

ment last July, encouraging non-state firms to take part in railway construction and reconstruction.

The agreement was signed on the condition that the Shenzhen firm would take on all of the railway's debts, totaling some 846 million yuan (US\$104 million). Zhongji president Cheng Qingbo said that the acquisition would benefit both his company and the Luoding Railway.

"For Zhongji, the deal will enable our firm to profit from transportation and other logistics services. And for Luoding Railway Corp, the deal will rid it of its huge debts and local financing burdens and make the construction of the railway extension project a possibility," said Cheng.

The Luoding railway, brought into operation in 2000, has been handicapped by low freight transport volumes, which are not

even one-fifth of its designed capacity. This July, the management of the state-owned railway put its entire holdings up for sale in a bid to raise funds to keep the railway's expansion plans alive. Although Cheng's company has to bear the heavy debt burden of the Luoding railway, he believes when the track extensions are complete and linked with the national railway network, the line can be very profitable.



A bridge too far gone

Work began this week to clean up debris from 800-year-old Shunji Bridge in Quanzhou, Fujian Province, which collapsed twice this year.

Xinhua Photo

Fake oral health group brushes with the law

By Chu Meng

Chaoyang District Court has requested the Ministry of Health to investigate and punish the illegal National Committee for Oral Health, an organization familiar in toothpaste and chewing gum TV commercials in China for many years.

Evidence seen by the court showed that the National Committee for Oral Health is neither a government institution nor a registered non-governmental organization. Even if it were a professional organization for dentists, it would need to be registered but is not. It was originally approved by the Ministry of Health in late 1980s as a dental experts group to provide advice for policy-making on oral health.

"It shows a failure to intervene by relevant watchdogs," a spokesman from the court said. "Most important, there are strict rules about which organizations may use the word 'national', which usually means that the organization's authority is certified by the central government."

Hebei reservoirs to store water for Olympic Beijing

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Water Resources Department of Hebei Province and Beijing Water Authority have announced that Hebei plans to store up to 500 million tons of water in four large reservoirs in the province, in order to guarantee the water supply for Beijing's 2008 Olympics.

Beijing's water consumption in 2008 is predicted to increase by up to 400 million tons. Hebei Province will store sufficient

capacity to ensure the safety of Beijing's water supply in 2008. Water will be transferred from reservoirs in Hebei to Beijing via the Beijing-Shijiazhuang section of South-to-North Water Transfer Project, construction of which is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2007. Even if the weather over the next two years is exceptionally dry, the four reservoirs are capable of supplying sufficient water to the capital.

Beijing will also invest 22

million yuan (US\$2.7 million) this year to improve the environment in water source protection areas in Hebei Province, especially around Chengde and Zhangjiakou.

Wei Zhimin, from Hebei's water authority, said that the four reservoirs are Gangnan, Huangbi-zhuang, Wangkuai and Xidayang. These reservoirs currently store up to 786 million tons of water, of which 351 million tons is available for transfer to aid other cities.

Early HIV vaccine trials a success

By He Jianwei

A first phase of trials has shown a new HIV vaccine to be safe and possibly effective, health officials said at a press conference held Friday by the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) and then Ministry of Science and Technology.

"All the 49 healthy people who received the injection in the first phase had no major adverse reaction after 180 days. The result proves that the vaccine is safe," said Zhang Wei, head of the pharmaceutical registration department of the SFDA.

"The 49 people appeared immune to HIV-1 virus 15 days after the injection, indicating that the vaccine worked well in stimulating body's immunity," added Zhang.

The first phase of trials began in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on March 12, 2005. The volunteers were healthy people between ages 18 to 50, 33 men and 16 women. They were divided into eight groups, having their first injection on March 12 last year and being observed until June 11 this year, according to Sang Guowei, director

of the National Institute for the Control of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products

The new vaccine must undergo three phases of clinical trials before going into production. The second round of trial will require 300 volunteers and the third phase 500 volunteers, said Guo.

The second phase will assess the safety of the vaccine and the nature of any immunity it provides. The third phase will look at the protection it offers high-risk groups. The second and third phases will be carried out after the vaccine is certified by the SFDA.

Publishers forum mulls new media challenge

By Han Manman

The 2006 International Publishing Forum is to be held in Beijing next Monday. The theme of the forum, a prelude of the upcoming Beijing International Book Fair, is new technology and the future of the publishing industry.

The annual event will this year be held at the Kempinski Hotel. The forum is jointly sponsored by the General Administration of Press and Publication (GAPP) and the Information Office of the State Council.

Top government officials from GAPP and senior executives from Chinese and international publishing houses are scheduled to make presentations. Speakers include Jane Friedman, president and chief executive officer of Harper-Collins, Ruiger Gebauer, president global publishing Springer SBM, CEO and president Springer Americas, Diego Piacentini, global vice president of Amazon.com and Dave Eun, global vice president of Google Inc.

The forum is also the prelude of this year's Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF), which will run from August 30 to September 1 at the Beijing International Exhibition Center.

Brief News

Massacre survivor wins defamation case

Seventy-seven-year-old Xia Shuqin, a survivor of the Nanjing Massacre during the War of Resistance against Japan, has won the country's first civil case for defamation concerning the incident, after two right-wing Japanese historians accused her of 'faking' her account of the atrocity, in a verdict handed down by a court in Nanjing this week.

Thirty-four police sacked

China has sacked 34 police officers in the first six months of the year for misconduct, including the misuse of firearms, drinking while on duty and gambling, the Ministry of Public Security announced.

US tourists visit capital the most

Tourist visits from the US to Beijing have reached some 287,000, making America first among tourist sources countries, the Beijing Municipal Statistical Bureau announced this week.

Fewer impoverished

The number of people with an average annual income of less than US\$85, China's official poverty line, fell to 24 million last year, a reduction of over 100 million in the last 20 years, said Liu Jian, director of the Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development with the State Council.

(By Jiang Xubo/Gan Tian)

Snails blamed for meningitis outbreak

By Qiu Jiaoning

Some 87 people have fallen ill from meningitis caused by parasites after eating raw or undercooked Amazonian snails at a local restaurant, said Beijing Municipal Bureau of Health (BMBH) Thursday.

BMBH said that all the patients ate raw or undercooked Amazonian snails two to four weeks ago in a Sichuan-style restaurant and the infection was caused by improper processing and cooking.

The restaurant failed to eradicate eel worms living in the snails. Each Amazonian snail is host to 3,000 to 6,000 parasites, which can harm the human nervous system, leading to headaches, facial paralysis, meningitis and fever, according to Xu Rongman, researcher with the Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology under the Academy of Military Medical Sciences. However, the snails are edible if cooked at high temperatures for more than two minutes.

Some patients suffered severe headaches and found it difficult to walk or sit down, while others showed symptoms including fever, nausea and vomiting. Dr Yin Chenghong from the Beijing Friendship Hospital said that

people needn't be too worried as it is curable and will not result in major problems if treated promptly.

Beijing Municipal Office for Food Safety Supervision and Coordination (BMOFSC) on Tuesday urgently ordered all produce markets, supermarkets, department stores and restaurants to stop buying, selling and processing the Amazonian snails.

BMBH are monitoring reported cases of the parasite-caused disease. The bureau said the meningitis outbreak had not caused deaths so far, and some patients had left hospital after treatment. But doctors suspect that a batch of the snails was contaminated and BMBH is trying to trace the suppliers of the contaminated snails.

The Beijing Friendship Hospital has launched a training course on the treatment of the disease. The hospital discovered the first case of meningitis on June 24 when a 34-year-old man came in suffering from violent headaches and nausea after eating a dish of cold snail meat at the Shuguo Yanyi Restaurant, according to Xinhua. The restaurant promised on Wednesday to fully compensate all consumers affected.



The sale of Amazonian snails has been banned.

CFP Photo



The regatta competition is held through August 31. CFP Photo

Qingdao regatta tests Olympic waters

By Chen Shasha

The 2006 Qingdao International Regatta hoisted sail on August 20 in Qingdao, Shandong province. The regatta will act as a test event for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The regatta will see 467 sailors from 42 nations competing. China will be represented by the largest contingent, with 49 competitors taking part in 11 events. France, Great Britain and the USA will also all be sending large teams of 30 or more. The 22-strong Australian team will be aiming for a

repeat of their King's Trophy winning display at the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) World Sailing Games. The competition will give competitors the opportunity to test the waters where the next set of Olympic medalists will be decided.

The competitors include 13 medal winners from the 2004 Athens Olympics. The regatta features all the Olympic sailing competition's 11 events for all nine classes. It is taking place with a newly-adopted competition format. Each event series will

consist of 10 races and a medal race on August 30. The top ten competitors in the first ten races will qualify for the medal race.

The competition will see a number of innovations, including a floating dock, according to Mei Chuntao, a media representative for the Qingdao Olympic Regatta committee. The dock was used for the first time in China and can keep half a meter above the surface of the sea regardless of tides and swell.

The competition will be held at the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center, located at the former

Beihai Dockyard on Fushan Bay in the city's East New Zone. The Race Committee, working to ISAF guidelines, will set courses as similar as possible to those of the Olympic sailing competition.

Spectators can book tickets for shore viewing by calling 0532-11185 (Chinese language only). Tickets cost 10 yuan per person. Tickets for tourist ships cost 180 yuan per person, and can be bought outside Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center. Information is available online at www.sailing2008.org.

Doctors beg Beijing for body donors

By Han Manman

Beijing's first body donation scheme has been launched, immediately attracting over 100 volunteers from 18 to 64 years old. Twenty-one people have already handed in their completed forms confirming that they are prepared to donate their bodies to medicine.

Two months ago, Mr Ma from Chongqing city published an article on a popular website forum appealing for more people to give consent that their bodies be used to help save lives after they die. He said that 'people should believe science, love life and give up warmed-over ideas. When leaving this world, you should return your last and most

valuable thing. Ninety-eight Nanjing volunteers including police, doctors, students, and teachers joined his online club within a week. On July 11, the first group of volunteers handed in their body donation consent forms to Chongqing Red Cross.

In Beijing, Guo Ying heard about the story. She was suffering from a rare disease, thymus tumors and myasthenia gravis, and while she had quit her job because of the illness, felt compelled to start a Beijing branch of the donor scheme.

Guo put all her energy into work to publish body donation news online and contact volunteers. After

the Beijing club was established, she began contact with a hospital to register the body donations. Doctor Jin from Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC) was stunned to hear Guo asking for over 100 body donation consent forms at a time.

Guo began to organize volunteer activities to raise awareness. On July 23, Guo came to Chaoyang Park with over 20 volunteers and gave out appeal letters to passers by. "I believe, as people become more accepting of such choices, there will be more and more people who support and join us," said Guo.

Guo has already received 21

completed body donation consent forms from the volunteers and handed them in to the PUHSC.

Although many volunteers want to contribute their bodies, it seems hard to implement. Twenty-three year old Feng Xiaoyan is a clerk at a hotel in Beijing. She completed her consent form but her parents refused to sign it. "Not only did my parents not allow me to do it, but my boyfriend warned me to put it out of my mind," she said.

"I have been retired for over a dozen years, I can do nothing for society but leave this body to people who need it when I pass on," said Ms Gao, 64. However,

Gao's son and daughter strongly disapprove of her decision.

Dr Liu Yongtao from PUHSC, who is in charge of the body donation scheme and the consent forms, said hundreds of people come to ask about body donation each year, but few actually donate their bodies when they die. As the body can obviously only be donated on a donor's death, a lot of variables can come into play when this finally happens.

There are only three hospitals that receive body donations - PUHSC, Capital Medical University and Peking Union Medical College. Donated bodies are used for anatomical study.

Official plays down success in IAAF Junior Worlds

Beijing, August 21 (People's Daily) — Top Chinese athletics officials are playing down the country's medal haul at the IAAF Junior World Championships held in Beijing, saying China is far from a world athletics power.

China won five golds, five silvers and seven bronzes, its second best result in the history of the World Junior Championships after an 8-3-3 finish in Seoul in 1992.

"We must not get carried away by the gold medals," said Feng Shuyong, deputy director of the Chinese athletics administrative center. "They shouldn't be used to gage our position in the world athletics."

As outstanding performances were rarely seen, Feng said they are more valuable than winning a gold with a mediocre result, if athletes improve their personal best.

Feng said Chinese athletes tend to shine at the junior level, but become inferior to their foreign peers entering the senior-level.



Margus Hunt of Estonia roars after his 67.32m discus throw.

Photo provided by IAAF

Voices from the Championships:

This Junior World Championship has left us certain that the organization of athletics events at the 2008 Games will be of an excellent standard.

— **Lamine Diack, IAAF President**

Our hosts have met all our requirements for competition arrangements, athletes reception and venue security.

— **Anna Legnani, press delegate, IAAF**

The venue is excellent. The crowds were also very warm, and accommodation and food carefully arranged.

— **Rhonda Watkins, Women's Long Jump gold medalist**

The introductions and the big, clear pictures on the stadium screen, meant we had a

better understanding of how all the different events were proceeding... It's really good.

— **Spectator Xu Xue**

The Media Center has good facilities and is comfortable to work in.

— **A BBC reporter**

I'm very satisfied with the prompt and clear announcement of results.

— **Reporter, Sports Illustrated**

I felt the hospitality of the people of Beijing.

— **Schaffarzik Sandra, Women's Javelin gold medalist,**

I'm impressed by the transportation links and the state of the gymnasium.

— **Sara Bengtson, student, People's University of China**



China's 'little emperors' are getting fatter.
AFP Photo

China's 'little emperors' getting fatter

Beijing, August 21 (AFP / Asia-Media) — China is sounding the alarm bell as new data shows obesity among boys living city lifestyles has risen by over 100 times in the past 20 years.

About 25 percent of urban boys between the ages of seven and 18 are overweight, up from just 0.2 percent in 1985, the *China Daily* said, citing a survey of 400,000 students across the country.

"China was once considered to have one of the thinnest populations but it is fast catching up with the West in terms of the prevalence of children who are overweight," said Yang Guiren, a senior education ministry official.

Mao Zhenming, a professor at Beijing Normal University, argued social, economic and technical changes in China's fast-modernizing society were largely to blame.

"The sharp rise in the use of motor vehicles and modern household appliances has reduced physical activity," he said.

A fiercely competitive examination system also means many Chinese teenagers spend all their spare time studying, while the absence of recreational facilities in the cities make exercise harder.

Although the paper did not mention it, China's strict population policies that aim to keep city parents from having more than one child are generally considered to be another factor behind rising youth obesity rates.

Boys with no siblings — who have become known as 'little emperors' — are often the targets of doting parents and grandparents prone to show off their affection with candy and fatty fast food.

China Daily warned today's overweight teenagers could become a heavy burden on the public health system in a few decades when they have reached middle age.

Interview with the reporter:

Interview with the reporter:

The Vietnamese have a high regard for China's strong manufacturing capability and economic growth.

As these smaller economies grow by manufacturing and exporting basic goods, which have long been dominated by China, competition is unavoidable.

But an increasing number of Chinese companies are establishing plants and business in those countries. They are helping to boost those economies and imposing competition to the local counterparts.

Meanwhile, Chinese officials and business associations are encouraging companies to move into higher value manufacturing and service industries.

As more Chinese firms move upstream, there should be less direct competition with those other developing or less developed nations.

— **Don Lee, journalist, Los Angeles Times, Shanghai**



Crowds in Hochimin City
CFP Photo

'Made in Vietnam' labels much more than 'Made in China'

Long Thanh, Vietnam, August 20 (Los Angeles Times) — Check that label: 'Made in China' is starting to give way to 'Made in Vietnam.'

Taking a page from Beijing's economic playbook, Vietnam is luring makers of shoes, garments and computer chips with tax breaks, inexpensive land and cheaper labor.

Factory wages average US\$50 to US\$60 a month — half as much as in manufacturing centers along China's coast. The incentives are so attractive that even Chinese companies are relocating.

To facilitate business, Vietnam is building roads, airports and seaports. The country is benefiting from its highly literate population and millions of young workers hungry to improve their families' living standards.

In many cases, Vietnam can match or outdo its northern neighbor in incentives. Soon it is expected to join the World Trade Organization — as China did five years ago — which would make it easier for foreign companies to do business in Vietnam, a market of 84 million.

The United States normalized trade with Vietnam in late 2001, but it wasn't until about a year ago that the Americans started their significant interest in this country.

China isn't brooding over the loss of jobs and businesses to Vietnam, at least not yet.

"China won't be afraid of production moving out," said Ma Xiaoye, head of the Academy for World Watch, an independent civic group in Shanghai. "It will address some of the imbalance."

The key factors include Vietnam's comparative political stability and strong focus on education.

Interview with the editor:

We understand that it is a tradition in many Asian countries that parents take care of their kids too much. It is the same in the US and every continent around the world.

But the point here is that what should we give to our children? I personally think parents should pay more attention to their child's health, psychology and ability, rather than just food and protection.

We should teach them to work for themselves, to understand the outside world, and to be fit and healthy for the rest of their life.

— **Stephen Low, senior editor, asiamedia.ucla.edu**

Beijing to welcome five million overseas visitors in 2008

Beijing, August 23 (People's Daily) — Beijing, as the venue of the 29th Olympic Games, will receive 4.6 to 4.8 million visitors from overseas in 2008, a city tourism official said.

The overseas visitors are expected to bring Beijing US\$4.8 to 4.9 billion in tourism revenue, said Gu Xiaoyuan, deputy director of the Beijing Tourism Administration.

During the summer Olympics in 2008, the number of overseas visitors to Beijing is expected to be 500,000 to 550,000, she said.

Currently, Beijing has 4,761 hotels with a total of 572,500 beds, according to the official.

As of the end of July, Beijing had received 2.113 million overseas visitors spending at least one night in the city, up 7.1 percent compared with the corresponding period of last year, figures from the tourism administration show.

The figure of visitors for the whole of last year stood at 3.629 million, up 15 percent year-on-year.

Germans break state monopoly on railway advertising

By Chu Meng

Business Media China AG (BMC), a German funded media firm, has secured a six-year contract on the rights to advertising space at the capital's two main railway stations, Beijing Railway Station and Beijing West Railway Station, as well as the pivotal stations in neighboring Tianjin and Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei Province.

The contract also has advanced licensing rights beyond 2012 and includes the development of a plan for the use of advertising space in 20 other railway stations controlled by the Beijing Railway Bureau.

BMC is based in Stuttgart and is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. It already provides advertising services

to Beijing's Capital International Airport and the Hongqiao International Airport in Shanghai.

"This has broken the state sector's long-term monopoly in the railway advertisement sector," said Zhang Jie, an advertising executive with the China Railway Century Media, a company fully-owned by the Beijing Railway Bureau.

The four stations have at least 20,000 square meters of advertising space and LCD screens that are viewed 320 million times a year, he said.

The four stations posted an aggregate advertisement income between 40 million and 50 million yuan a year, which BMC plans to increase to 150 million to 200 million yuan, said company executive Liu Yining.

'Discriminating' Metro store membership all a mix up

By Jackie Zhang

Metro Beijing Wanquanhe Store, Paul Ollerenshaw, and staff from Metro Jinjiang Cash & Carry Co, held a small press conference this Tuesday, explaining their new membership card system, and how the store operates.

Ever since the first Metro store opened in Beijing last month, reports have focused on misunderstandings about the Metro membership card system. Many Chinese interested in the Metro store were refused Metro cards. And the store's rule that children smaller than 1.2 meters are not allowed to enter Metro has also raised local people's ire.

Ollerenshaw said that the

management style of Metro was different to other supermarkets.

"Metro focuses on professional customers instead of individuals. Customers have to provide necessary documents in order to be members of the store, such as a copy of their business license or organization code certificate, the ID of their legal representative, and an introduction letter."

"This isn't to annoy our customers, but to ensure their professional qualifications."

According to Ollerenshaw, children lower than 1.2 meters are not allowed to enter the store because forklifts and high racks could be dangerous for them.

Tianjin to become the world's largest carbon black base

By Chen Shasha

Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (TEDA) announced on August 22 that Cabot Corporation, the US chemical giant is moving its production center to Tianjin.

Kennett F. Burnes, Cabot Corporation's Chairman, President and CEO, said that a great number of orders have flooded in one after another since the beginning of June, this year, when their plant entered trial production, and which has now far exceeded its production capacity.

In order to serve customer needs, Cabot Corporation had to import carbon black.

"The operation of the TEDA Phase I Project will further strengthen the advantages of Cabot Corporation in carbon black production in China," said Mr. Burnes.

According to Burnes, another reason for the move is that there still exists a gap of nearly 100,000 tons of carbon black in China every year and the current production technology is relatively backward.

BOCOG looks again for producers and retailers

By Gan Tian

Beijing Olympic Committee is ready to recruit chartered producers and retailers for Beijing 2008 Olympics from the public for the second time on Monday. This time it is aimed at enterprises dealing with umbrellas, children's clothes, and stationery. Enterprises who wish to apply must fill in the form which can be obtained at beijing2008.com. August 31 is the deadline.

According to the regulations, the producers who apply should have 'the basic taxpayer status', obtain quality

certification, and have reached the standard level of the environment protection test.

The applying retailers should have a registered capital of at least five million yuan (three million yuan for enterprises in Western China), enjoy a good reputation among the public, and have the ability to 'build a networking retail system in the required area'.

The second group of Olympic chartered producers and retailers can enjoy official partner privileges from the day they are authorized until December 31, 2008.

Nice pods

Apple Computer Inc. said it will pay US\$100 million for a license to use Creative Technology Ltd.'s patented digital music player technology, settling five legal disputes between the two companies.

AFP Photo

Beijing hotel market looks rosy

By Jiang Xubo

The upper tier hotel market (four and five star segments) in the capital is expected to end the year on a positive note. Revenue per available room (RPAR) may register a double-digit percentage increase as a result of stronger average daily rates (ADR), Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels (JLLH), the world's leading hotel investment services firm, estimates.

In the first half of this year, the ADR of Beijing's upper-tier hotels rose by nine percent to some 900 yuan (US\$113), supporting the more than 8 percent growth in RPAR despite a marginal 0.55 percentage point decline in occupancy level, according to the JLLH.

"Strong corporate demand and the continued growth of inbound tourism to Beijing have been fuelling the expansion of the hotel sector," said Andreas Flair, Head of China and Executive Vice President of JLLH.

In anticipation of continued economic growth and the 2008 Olympics, several hotels are expected to start operations in the capital over the next two years.

Flair pointed out that the industry would sustain its growth post-Olympics. "Beijing is displaying signs of sustainable growth in many of its industries. As Beijing continues to evolve into a world-class city, hotel demand and room rates are expected to grow in tandem," he said.

US fund eyes Wangfujing store

Shanghai, August 23 (Reuters) - Warburg Pincus is among several investors in talks to buy a major stake in Beijing Wangfujing Department Store (Group) Co Ltd in a deal that could exceed US\$180m, banking and retail industry sources said.

Wangfujing is one of China's oldest department store in Beijing. Other potential investors include US buyout firm Carlyle Group and an investment arm of China's Legend Holdings Ltd.

Tetra Pak ramps up capacity

Beijing, August 22 (AP) - Swedish carton maker Tetra Pak will invest 30 million euro on a second laminator to double the capacity at its Beijing factory.

The firm will be able to produce 16 billion packages a year when the new equipment starts production in the first quarter of 2007.

The firm has now invested two billion in China since it arrived in 1972, and also runs factories in Shanghai, Kunshan in Jiangsu Province and Foshan, Guangdong Province.

AMD opens second China R&D center

Shanghai, August 24 (EE Times) - AMD is opening its second China's R&D center in Shanghai. The US\$16 million center's main duties will be development, validation and testing of mobile platforms.

AMD will make the center the largest systems design hub outside of the US. AMD has a R&D facility in Beijing, as well as a US\$50 million packaging plant in Suzhou.

Boeing to test Beijing airport runways

Beijing, August 22 (PTI) - Boeing has signed to conduct a study of the operating mode for the three runways in the Capital International Airport, taking the Atlanta International Airport as a comparison.

After six months of trial operation, the three runways, two old ones and the newly constructed one, will begin official operation in May 2008.

Eaton buys Senyuan

By Jiang Xubo

Eaton Corporation announced it will make a voluntary general offer for the shares of Senyuan International Holdings Limited, a Hong Kong Stock Exchange listed company.

Eaton's offer is HK\$1.49 per share. However, the offer price will increase to HK\$1.62 - representing an aggregate price of US\$63.6 million (506.84 million yuan) for all outstanding shares - if acceptances are received representing 90 percent or more of the outstanding Senyuan shares.

Senyuan's wholly owned subsidiary, Changzhou Senyuan Switch Company, is a well-established manufacturer of vacuum circuit breakers in China.



Breaking up in the cellphone age

By Mark Memmott (USA Today)

Getting dumped by your boyfriend is hard enough. Getting dumped via a text message on your cell phone? Ouch. That's what happened to Jennifer Brun of Chicago, who thought she was happily engaged to the guy before his text message arrived.

There seems to be a trend here. There was the woman who got fired via a text message. Now this. We wonder: Why do some folks think it's OK to break bad news that way?

Comments:

What I hate about modern day technology is it makes it so people don't talk to each other anymore. I cannot tell you how many times a guy has sent a text message to break up or break a date. It's cowardly, disrespectful, and insensitive to someone's feelings and shows no caring is involved whatsoever.

— Mona Lee

I just tried it and it works great!!

*She never saw it coming.
Thanks Mr. Technology!*

— copycat

I'm surprised that the text message was so well written. At least he put some time in to the message. Most text messages look like they were written by an illiterate five year old.

— Jim P

For years, there have been people who thought it was OK to break up or fire via phone call...now it has ventured into text messaging. It has nothing to do with the technology, but every-



CFP Photo

thing to do with the class of those doing it!

There were drive-by shootings in the 19th century, only they were committed on horseback. Should we blame modern drive-bys on the automobile, or the miscreants doing the shooting?

— Ryan

We can easily be rude or cruel to others when we don't have to face them.

People exhibit bad behavior much more easily when they are

driving in their car for example because they have no human contact so guilt is far less felt if at all.

When we receive unwanted telemarketing calls, we can easily hang up but having someone come to your door is harder to brush off.

We are especially mean in chat rooms as there is no direct contact with a particular person. Just a name with an opinion. We don't know if they are male or female, young or old, what race they are or what position they have in life. We don't have to care either.

People respond more strongly to other people's emotions like crying or yelling. Text messaging does not expose those emotions to us.

— Thought Provoker

I love technology and all the good things that come from it; however, we should not hide behind it or let it do our dirty work.

— LAS

Coward? A lot of today's youth have been taught 'situational ethics' – not honesty. Our society does not put personal responsibility and trustworthiness as its highest character trait. It's a throw away society. Jobs, relationships, marriages, and kids (born and unborn) all do not add up to the 'me'.

— Joe

I don't think it's right, but... it can be safer.

— GetReal

Having grown up with technology, I've seen the separation develop between Emotion and common Regard due to Technology. Its even worse with the MySpace generation- if they get mad at a friend, they remove them from their 'Top 8' or delete them altogether. Technology has its place, but so does due regard for others around you, and the way I see it, both are gross examples of technology abuse.

— Joe M

I love the convenience of all these gadgets, but people need to realize they are not a replacement for face-to-face contact. They're simply enhancements.

— Mary

Weekly topics

Newsweek (US)

1. Iraq and Vietnam: places for US soul-searching
2. Bush should rethink his vacation
3. In Sri Lanka, civil war exacts mounting toll
4. Can Bush help GOP candidates?
5. Are Islam and the west incompatible?

New York Times (US)

1. Books of the Times: An Insider Explains Italy, Land of Cheery Dysfunction
2. In college football, big paydays for humiliation
3. A passion for Mussels
4. Defying law, a Foie Gras feast in Chicago
5. Web surfing in public places is a way to court trouble

Sydney Morning Herald (Aus)

1. Tom, you're dumped
2. Free after years of captivity in garage
3. Dutch arrest 12 passengers on plane
4. Corby rejects doing time at home
5. Missing woman seen tied up in detective's car

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Chinese police end funeral striptease acts
2. Mumbai eatery named for Hitler angers Indian Jews
3. The Muslim malaise
4. Drivers foil 401 attacker
5. RCMP arrest 2 more in alleged Tigers plot

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Three Big Brother contestants should not have taken part
2. World's top maths genius jobless and living with mother
3. Obituary: Princess Tatiana von Metternich
4. Pakistan sit-in sparks crisis
5. England 'triggered ball row'

(By Jiang Xubo)

Circumspection over circumcision

By Guardian Unlimited
(the Guardian)

It may turn out to be the kindest cut of all, but it's still going to be a tricky business to make circumcision widely and safely available if it proves effective in stopping the spread of Aids.

The original trial showed circumcised men were 60 percent less likely than others to get HIV. And two of the trials in Kenya and Uganda may also report good results next year.

Health clinics will be overwhelmed by men seeking circumcision, with the result that some will end up in the hands of the medically unqualified, which may cause deaths and permanent genital damage.

But that's among the enthusiasts. Harder to sort will be the squeamishness, as the former US president Bill Clinton puts it, of some men and the cultural aversion of many others. It will be difficult, says Carolyn Williams of the

National Institutes of Health who are funding the first two trials, to go to a place with a mixed Hindu and Muslim population and "tell those (men) who are not (Muslim) they should look like Muslim men".

There are mixed feelings in Europe. In the UK, doctors stopped advocating circumcision on the grounds of hygiene and health years ago – though they still do in the US.

And there's another big problem. In all the pending excitement, it's quite possible that people in areas of high HIV prevalence will think circumcision is 100 percent effective at preventing Aids. But it's not a silver bullet.

Comments:

Having a foreskin greatly enhances sexual pleasure. Any guy with a foreskin would be loath to part with it, save perhaps losing it to escape a burning boat or other life-threatening situation.

— Randolph

No one's actually gone on to explain exactly, in layman's terms, how this would prevent AIDS.

— muzikluv

As a man who has experienced both, I can tell you circumcised or not makes very little difference – it's what you do with it.

Until a cure for HIV is found (if it ever is), surely each and every method needs to be exploited to reduce the terrible threat HIV presents. I'd rather lose my foreskin than my life.

— Winky

Isn't it against the law to cut the ears and tails off puppies? There is nothing wrong with men the way they are born. The idea is just ridiculous.

— missnegative

Put simply the foreskin contains a high proportion of those cells that can be infected with the HIV virus – I.E CD4+ 'helper' lymphocytes, Langerhans cells, etc.

— Intactivist

As the foreskin can become traumatized in intercourse, transfer of the virus from infected to non-infected individuals can occur relatively easily.

Remove the source of potential transfection - by circumcision – and infection rates are dramatically reduced.

— Clackers

While obviously adult men – or women – should be free to mutilate their own bodies any way they wish, stupid and retrograde suggestions such as the one that male circumcision can reduce the incidence of AIDS will only lead to support those who believe they have some sort of right to mutilate their children's genitals soon after birth or later in childhood. Imagine the fuss that would be made if someone suggested that a similar protective effect could be achieved by female genital mutilation! I doubt in that case

if the 'truth' of the findings would outbalance the outcry at the inhumane treatment of kids.

— gregKSA

It would be so much cheaper to just hand out condoms.

This makes it sound like circumcision is a vaccine.

— Demonspark

Some years ago one of the so-called doctors who promote circumcision of infants quacked, "Circumcision is like a condom for life!" In this recent study comparing circumcised vs intact African tea plantation workers the claimed 60 percent rate indicates circumcision is actually like a condom full of holes.

There is an enormous and growing body proof that the genitals of both sexes were perfectly designed by nature for optimal function just like all the other parts of the body.

— Intactivist

Teams pitch up for women's world softball meet

By Chen Shasha

The 2006 international Women's Softball Championships, the first trial Olympic competition in Beijing, will take place from August 27 to September 5. The newly built softball stadium in Fengtai District will host over 270 athletes from 16 teams.

This Monday, teams from the USA, Britain and Greece arrived to practice in the Fengtai stadium. "The stadium is impressive, and we are sure we'll win the competition," said John Candrea, coach of the American team said. Winners of the world championships in 1998 in Japan and 2002 in Canada as well as Olympic Gold in Sydney and Athens, the US team has reigned supreme in the softball world for many years.

"We started training for the Championships from last September, as we will meet many strong competitors, like Japan, Australia and China," Candrea said, "We have picked young athletes, partly to prepare for the 2008 Olympic Games. Some are just out of college," John said. Four teams will be chosen directly from the championships to participate in the 2008 Olympic Games, and Candrea said he was confident he would lead the US team back to Beijing in 2008.

China also hopes for glory, having won the Olympic silver medal in 1996 in Atlanta. Since then, the team has not been in the top three at any World Championships, finishing fourth in both the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and the 2004 Games in Athens.

However, team coach Michael Bastian, who began

working with the team last year, believes in the potential of the Chinese players. "Around the world, China softball teams have been known for defense and great pitching," Bastian said, "But what kept us from finishing in the top three and winning the gold medal is our inability to score runs." Bastian says he is working to give his team a balanced offence and a combination of speed and power, to make the game unpredictable. "Physically, there is no real difference between the players," he said, "I think we can win the gold medal and make the Chinese people proud."

Britain also started to prepare for the championships from last year, according to Laura Thompson, a student athlete with the UK team. "All we need to do is practice hard," said Thompson, who started to play softball aged 14. She said she felt quite comfortable in Fengtai stadium and hoped to make it to the 2008 Olympic Games. "I want to play softball for as long as I can, and 2008 will be a big opportunity for me," she said.

Special buses will run during the championships, to take spectators and staff from Wukesong and Gongzhufen in Haidian district to the Fengtai stadium.

CFP Photo



Hey, that's not a woman....the US coach gets practice started.

Japanese historian finds new evidence of germ warfare

By He Jianwei

Makoto Ueda, a Japanese historian, has found new evidence of Japanese germ warfare in China during his investigation from August 17 to 20 in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province.

"The Japanese germ warfare not only killed millions of innocent people, but was also an attempt to extinguish a family line [Wang] in Zhejiang Province," said Ueda.

Ueda was accompanied by



Xinhua Photo

Wang Xuan, the leading spokesperson for Chinese victims of Japanese germ warfare.

It was written in the Wang

family tree that 404 villagers, or one third of the village's population surnamed Wang, were killed by plague in the autumn of 1942 and 23 families were extinguished from the village.

"China is a society of clans. Family is crucial to Chinese people. The Japanese germ warfare was not just to extinguish life itself, but also to damage the culture and history," said Ueda.

Ueda will write a book named *Plague and Village-Germ War-*

fare's Impact on Chinese Rural Society, based on the historical data from the family trees.

"My purpose in writing this book is to let more Japanese learn about Chinese culture and family consciousness and to promote friendship between our two countries," he said.

Ueda is a 49-year-old professor of history in Rikkyo University in Tokyo investigating his family tree from Chongshan village.

African arrested for drug smuggling

By He Jianwei

An African man was seized as he arrived at Beijing Capital Airport on suspicion of smuggling drugs inside his body, Beijing Customs announced on Monday.

The man was carrying 700 grams of heroin with a purity

of 85.9 percent in 70 bags. He was caught on the morning of August 19.

He had little baggage and told customs he was 'a tourist or a businessman', which aroused suspicion. They found a fake passport in the lining of his baggage. He was carrying more than

10 dubious objects in his body, which were detected by X rays and CT scanning.

It was later established that the man had made US\$1,700 by smuggling drugs in the same method in Guangzhou this June.

The man has been detained. This is the first time someone

has been caught by Beijing Customs trying to smuggle contraband internally this year.

On June 20, three people were detained under suspicion of drug smuggling by Beijing Customs. Two were sentenced to life imprisonment and one to 15 years.

Bollywood to break Beijing

By Han Manman

Indian films are set to Bollywow Beijing film buffs, who will be getting a rare opportunity to view them, as a two week festival in China touches down in Beijing today.

As part of the ongoing '2006 India-China Friendship Year', the Indian embassy is holding a week-long Indian Film Festival in Beijing from August 25 to 31, in collaboration with the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) of China. The festival will feature 10 Indian films produced in different Indian languages. The festival will continue in Shanghai in the first week of September.

The films *Roja and Anjali* (in Tamil), *Juye Poora Xoon* (in Assamese), *Entee Veedu Appoontem* (in Malayalam), *Shwaas* (in Marathi), *Dweepta* (in Kannada), *Show* (in Telugu) and *Chokher Bal* (in Bengali) will be shown at the festival. The films were all made after 1990 and present the modern face of Indian cinema. Abhishek Singh, from the Indian embassy, said that mainstream Indian films are marked by a distinctive genre, often accompanied by melodious songs and dances, while in parallel, there is a vibrant art film section where novel experiments in theme and technique are being conducted.

Singh said two Bollywood hits, *Hum Dil De Chuke Hai* and *Dil Chahta Hai* will also feature in the film festival.

The festival in Beijing will be held at two different cinemas located in the Wangfujing area: Star City Theater (address: BB65, Oriental Plaza No. 1 East Chang'an Ave., Dong Cheng District BJ) and Xindongan Cinema (address: No.138 Wangfujing Ave, 5th Floor Xindongan Plaza).

Russian romance comes to Beijing

By Jackie Zhang

The famous State Academic Bolshoi Theater in Russia will come to Beijing to perform at the Poly Theatre.

Several famous soloists will perform 25 Russian songs, which are typical of Russian music of the 19th century.

The State Academic Bolshoi Theater was founded in 1776, comprising top-class opera troupes, corps de ballet, orchestras and choruses. The songs and music that the artists will perform in Beijing are written by famous musicians like Peter Ilitch Tchaikovsky, Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka and feature lyrics by world renowned poets like Aleksandr Pushkin.

Book tickets for the performance by telephoning 6506 5343 or 6506 5345.

Embassies swell staff in China

By Huang Daohen

Embassies of several countries have expanded their diplomatic staff in China in recent years. Today, the number of official diplomats in China from Canada, Japan, and South Korea is just less than the number in the United States.

"Beijing's embassy district has become a small United Nations!" said an officer who is responsible for the management of foreign

embassies. According to the officer, it is very difficult now for foreign embassies in Beijing to find land. He revealed that the American embassy had wanted to buy land which the Brazilian embassy was using. They were rejected. The US embassy had to find another place in Liangmaqiao Street, where their new embassy is currently under construction.

Why are embassies in China rushing to expand? According to

the *Global Times*, countries are eager to get involved in China as the country continues to gain importance worldwide. "We have now only six political diplomats in China, the same as in the 1980s, and as far as I know, the US embassy's political office has more than 30 diplomats. This gap is a disadvantage to us. We need to strengthen our analytical power to understand China," a French embassy official told *Beijing Today*.

Other countries also see a China presence as a way to meet the needs of bilateral trade. The German embassy said that the reason for the increase of diplomats to China is the growing momentum of bilateral relations. Of China's trade with the European Union, Germany accounts for 40 percent.

Finally, a large staff of diplomats also provides a platform for displaying a country's image in China.

Beijing tunes in to Cuba

By Jiang Xubo

Cubavision International, a TV satellite channel from Havana, Cuba, is now available in three star hotels and above in the capital and across the country.

The channel, the first Latin-America-based TV broadcast in China, covers different television genres including news sections featuring the cultural, political and socio-economic realities of Cuba with 24 hour programming seven days a week in English.

"The channel will stimulate mutual-understanding of the two countries, and help Chinese people to know what is happening in Cuba," said Alberto Blanco, the charge d'affaire of the Cuban Embassy in China, at the channel's launch ceremony this Wednesday.

It marks the 45th anniversary of China and Cuba establishing diplomatic relations.

"The channel will help us to know Cuba's glorious culture, beautiful landscape and great people, consolidating the two countries traditional friendliness and bringing the two countries closer to each other," said Ma Xuming, department chief of International Cooperation from the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television.

Cubavision is received via satellite in different regions of the world, including North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and northern Africa and Asia.

Ukraine celebrates 15th birthday



The Ukraine embassy fields questions at the independence day press conference. Photo by He Jianwei

By He Jianwei

The Ukrainian embassy held a press conference on Wednesday to celebrate the 15th anniversary of their independence.

"We will have a celebration reception in Hotel Kunlun on September 12," said Dr Vasyl Gamyanin, the first secretary at the embassy.

At the press conference, Minister Counselor Mrs Hanna Karmadonova introduced the history of Ukraine's independence and explained their 'National Unity Pact' to press the issue of unity as key for Ukraine.

Counselor Andriy Plahotniuk expounded Ukraine's foreign policy. Ukraine has more than 120 embassies and consulates all over the world and more than 100 nations and international organizations have embassies or offices in Ukraine.

Commercial Counselor Ihor Velko talked about Ukraine's economic development and the significance of dependence for Ukraine's economy.

At the end of the press conference, they answered questions from journalists. Besides economic and political communication, culture communication is also important for Sino-Ukraine bilateral relationships. Ukrainians will make movies and documentaries during the Beijing Olympics, said Karmadonova.

There are more than 200 Ukrainians working and studying in Beijing, said Gamyanin.

Diplomats in China to walk the Great Wall

By Huang Daohen

About 20 official diplomats in China will walk the Great Wall in Yulin in Shanxi Province. The event, imaginatively named 'Diplomats in China Walking the Great Wall-Yulin 2006', held its media briefing at the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFC) on August 23.

The event, launched by the CPAFC, will begin on September 7 and last for two days. The diplomats attending include members of the embassies, counselors and other corresponding officials from Bangladesh, Israel, Indonesia, Gabon, Egypt, Argentina, Iraq, Belarus, Madagascar, Afghanistan, the United States, the Philippines, Zambia and India.

It is the first time that China has organized a large-scale diplomats walk of the Great Wall. According to Luo Qin, the secretary of the CPAFC, the main aim of the event is to make the diplomatic envoys aware of the Great Wall, Chinese culture and the characteristics of local economic development.

A joint research project on the sustainable development and how to explore and protect the world cultural heritage, will also be held, providing a platform for exchange and cooperation on world heritage protection.

Georgians come to talk business

By Huang Daohen

A delegation from the US state of Georgia visited China and held a media briefing at Yingjia Center in Beijing on August 23, with the goal of opening new businesses and strengthening cultural ties. Craig Lesser, the Department of Economic Development Commissioner, led the delegation.

The delegation's efforts are centered on three major objectives: interviewing candidates and scouting locations for the opening of a Georgia office in Beijing during the first quarter of 2007; the continued lobbying for the opening of a Chinese consulate in Atlanta; and

continued support for Delta Airlines' proposal to bring a direct service from Atlanta to Beijing.

"After my trip to China last October," Lesser said at the conference, "I returned to Georgia convinced that the state needs to have a presence in Beijing. The Chinese market is the world's largest, with over 1.3 billion people."

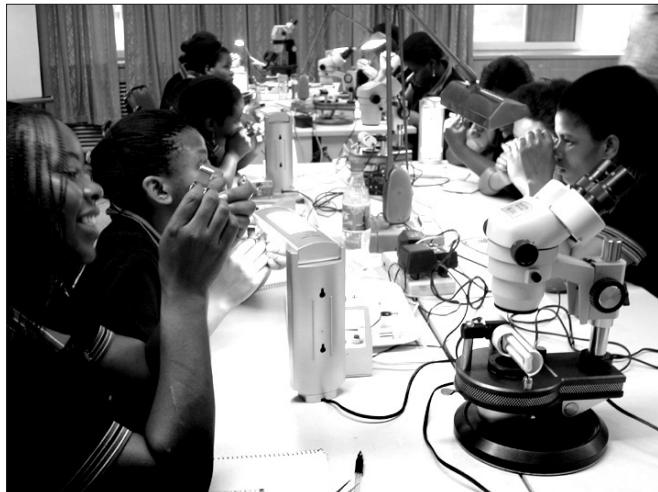
The office in Beijing will be the state's 11th international office, representing Georgia as an attractive destination for business investment and tourism. Georgia, in 2005, was China's sixth largest export destination, with US\$979 million worth of exports to China.

Happy hour
5pm to 8pm
drinks 2 for 1
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South African apprentices take a shine to jewelry making in Beijing.

Photo provided by NGTC

What a gem!

By Han Manman

Fifteen South African apprentices have polished up their jewelry making skills after a six-month training program in Beijing.

The group received a jewelry manufacture and machining certification after taking part in the course organized by the National Gemstone Training Center (NGTC) and State Ministry of Labour and Social Security last week.

They are now all qualified to set up small sized jewelry and dia-

mond factories in South Africa.

The course was set up as part of a bilateral agreement signed last November by South African deputy minister of minerals and energy, Lulu Xingwana, to help spur the country's efforts to establish a viable jewelry-making industry.

Xingwana said it was vital to train workers in diamond and jewelry production in order to boost the domestic industry, a major goal of the current overhaul of South Africa's diamond laws.

In February, South African

President Thabo Mbeki signed a long-awaited Diamonds Amendment Act, eliminating loopholes in the law that had enabled companies to export diamonds and establishing a government-controlled diamond exchange and export center.

Yang Lixin, director of NGTC said China's professional gemstone training programs were recognized across the world.

More apprentices are expected to come to China to receive professional training in the next few months.

Overseas Chinese flock back for singing festival

By Jackie Zhang

Singers from Thailand, Japan, Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the US came to Beijing this week to take part in the Second China International Chinese Choral Festival, held by China Chorus Association.

A total of 28 choirs from across the globe took part in the event. They sang famous

Chinese songs as well as their national favorites in Chinese.

"It's a great activity for overseas Chinese," said a member of the Australia Joy Chorus who has lived in Australia for five years. "The members of our choir are Chinese people living in Australia. Only when we leave China, do we feel our passion and love for our home country.

It is a good chance for us to express our love of our country. Many of the chorus members are from local church choruses. It is rare for them to sing songs praising governments and political parties."

The festival is sponsored by the International Foundation for Arts and Culture (NPO), run by Fukamitoshi, a Japanese entrepreneur.



Photo by Jackie Zhang

First literary festival kicks off at Bookworm

By Annie Wei

Bookworm will hold its first Mini Literacy Festival on Tuesday. The festival will run from August 29 to September 6, covering literary topics to cater for all tastes.

There will be a new theme every day during the nine-day festival. Most events will start at 7:30pm with others starting just after midday at 12.30pm.

There are two author events, with invited speakers including Ma Jian, a Chinese contemporary author. There will also be talks on subjects like how to get published in China with experts like Jo Lusby, from Penguin China, and Marysia Juszczakiewicz from Creative Works giving their expertise on how to get work onto the shelves.

Bookworm will also stage three 'Penguin Classics Literary Lunches' attended by notable local writers who will share their thoughts on their favorite Penguin Classics.

For more information or to sign up for the event, email books@beijingbookworm.com.

Future Mandarin teachers trained in Shanghai

By Jackie Zhang

Sixteen American teachers have spent the last six weeks learning how to teach Chinese at the East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai. They will now be able to teach Mandarin when they return to New York after the summer holidays.

The group came to China to take part in the 'Mandarin for Future Mandarin Teachers' pro-

gram run by the Confucius Institute at the China Institute in New York and the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language.

"The teachers have already got their teaching licenses in New York. The program will help them get licenses for teaching Chinese," said Huang Liping, vice president of the Confucius Institute. "This six-

week long study is their first period study. By finishing it, they get 12 credits, which will be recognized by the New York State Education Department."

Huang said "They will come to Shanghai again next summer and start their second period of study. At the end they will have obtained 30 credits to get their post-graduate degree for Chinese teaching and permanent Chinese

teaching licenses."

When learning about teaching Chinese, teachers have to accept professional education on Chinese literature, Chinese grammar, linguistics, and Chinese characters. "Any teacher whose Chinese language has reached the level of accepting post-graduate education in Chinese can apply for the program," said Huang Liping.

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Subscription Promotion

Sizzling savings on domestic travel



With the summer vacation over, domestic travel prices have started to drop.

CFP Photo

By Huang Daohen

Do you want to look out over the spacious pastures of Inner Mongolia? How about basking in the sunlight in Lijiang or breathing in the fresh mountain air in Jiuzhaigou? Well, according to travel agents, now is the perfect time to go.

With the summer vacation period over, domestic travel prices have started to drop. The price of rail tickets to popular destinations like Yunnan's Lijiang and Sichuan's Jiuzhaigou have been slashed by around 10 percent, with savings of between 500 and 600 yuan.

According to Zhang Lingjie, domestic travel manager at China International Travel Service (CITS), domestic travel has dropped significantly since last week, when children started back at school. And he reckons now is the best time to go traveling.

The decline of short-haul travel is focused on coastal routes, while long-haul travel has declined to areas like Yunnan, Jiuzhaigou and Guilin. A six-day trip to Yunnan's Lijiang or Kunming, including return flights, has fallen to around 2,300 yuan from 3,000 yuan and a seven-day trip to Jiuzhaigou will set you back 2,600 yuan compared to 3,100 yuan just a few weeks ago. For more information or to book tickets call CITS on 6515 8587 or 6515 8562.

ASK Beijing Today

1. Sandra Obermier, from Germany asked: "How can I volunteer for the 2008 Olympic Games?

According to the official website for the Beijing Olympics (BOCOG), recruitment for volunteers for the Games will begin on Monday (August 28). The website describes what is expected of volunteers and how to apply.

Olympic and Paralympic Games-time volunteers refer to the volunteers who are recruited directly by BOCOG or recruited by other entrusted agencies. They will have Olympic accreditation, perform specific duties during the Games, work at the time and places designated by BOCOG, accept BOCOG's management and serve the Beijing Olympic Games without pay.

It is estimated that around 70,000 and 30,000 Games-time volunteers will be needed for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, respectively.

They will mainly come from the universities in Beijing. Beijing residents, people of various ethnic groups from around the country, compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, overseas Chinese and foreign citizens are also welcome.

BOCOG's on-line application system and hotline will be in operation when the recruitment begins. To apply, and for more information, visit en.beijing2008.com

2. Steven Marlise, from France, asked: "In the compound where I live many of my neighbors have dogs and they rarely clean up after them. Are there any penalties for not picking up dog poop in Beijing?"

A new law allowing residents' committees to fine people who don't pick up their pets' poop came into force this week. Dog-owners now have to take plastic bags, a small shovel and tissue while walking their dogs. If dog owners do not clean their pet's excrement, they will be fined 50 yuan.

3. E. J. Brook from Australia, asked: "I just moved to Beijing and am looking to rent a place for around 4,000 yuan a month. But a couple of real estate agents have told me I will find it impossible to get the kind of place I want for less than 7,000 yuan. Is that true?"

The first thing you need to know is what kind of place that you want. If you want a place in a high-end real estate project, or a villa in Shunyi district the agents are probably right. If you don't mind living in a local residents' compound or a renovated building around the east second ring road you will have plenty to choose from with a 4,000 yuan budget.

(By Wei Ying)

Where to study Chinese

Beijing is home to hundreds of language schools and training centers set up to cater for the increasing number of people who want to learn Chinese.

By Annie Wei

A new school season has started. Language schools or training centers have re-opened and new comers are looking for flexible places to improve their Chinese.

More and more foreign students are coming to Beijing to study Chinese, said Ma Xuejun, an officer from the exit and entry bureau. And the demands have led to a boom in the Chinese language tutoring market.

In 2005, the market was worth an estimated two billion yuan with Beijing generating 50 percent of that total.

With new schools opening across the city every week, the market is set to grow even further. There is now a greater choice in language schools than



Have you taken the HSK test yet?

CFP Photo

ever before but with that choice comes the challenge of finding the school for you.

There is a difference between universities that offer Chinese major courses and training centers that offer Chinese language classes.

In China, the establishment of a school has to be approved by the Ministry of Education, while training centers are registered with the Bureau of Industry and Commerce. This means that teachers at some training centers may not be

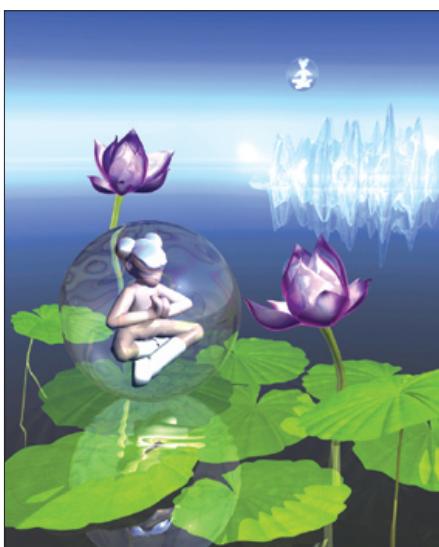
properly qualified.

It is also worth noting that only schools approved by the Ministry of Education, like Tsinghua University, or Beijing Culture and Language University can help students obtain a legal student visa.

The benefits of a language-training center are that they will normally offer one to one as well as group tuition. Many will also offer more flexible hours than universities allowing people to study on a full-time job.



Bounty hunter-1 photography



Padmasambhava 3D photo



Absolut Hung 3D photo



Chun-Li 3D photo

By Huang Daohen

What is to become of art in the age of digital technology, electronic flooding and virtual reality? What, if anything, does interactivity add to the esthetic and social experience of art?

Hung Tunglu gives the answer. Hung is part of the 'new humans', a Taiwanese equivalent to 'Generation X'. He grew up with cartoons, mostly imported from Japan, and the icons of globalized pop culture, which he appropriated and mixed with historical and religious images.

"My art comes from my life. I listen to electronic music and I play combat video games..."

In his early years' works such as *Street Fighter: Chun-Li*, *Pretty Soldier: Sailor Moon*, and *Evangelion: Ayanami Rei*, he photographed these chic looking, female cartoon dolls in front of blurry medieval religious paintings. His cultural logic places the iconized pop images above what used to carry high spiritual and historical weight, such as those of saints, Tian'anmen Square and First Gate of the Great Wall. By imposing the new on the old, he ironically canonized the old cultural images. Or, to be more precise, for those who believe in virtual reality more than objective reality and history, the paintings seem to lie in elevating the saints to the level of weightlessness.

There is also a downplaying of the role of exoticism in his use of images from diverse cultural backgrounds, which indicates the influence of the rapid global cultural flows at the moment. While east meets west in a peculiar way, the identity of Taiwan, where Hung has come from, is obviously absent in his post-modern images. It is this absence that Hung's works impart an urgent aura of sentimental decadence, spiritual fatigue and cultural pessimism.

"Every artist, in his time, follows his own logic. Cyber seems to be the most important word at the end of the century. That is why I follow the digital way..."

In Hung's current show there are many other space-age images that are stunning to look at. Having been a painter of new avant-garde conceptual art, Hung approaches his digital work with a harmonious sense of color and balance.

Unlike the previous images' directly following the famous video game heroes, Hung presented the prototype digital people in a very neutral way in his recent work: they no longer state the specific physical characteristics, but all are with the same baby face and the basic geometric shape. Some figures have no obvious gender. Those works are therefore a perfect example of what happens when art is in the flow: being multi-layered with meaning, referring to many things and to itself at the same time, allowing a platform for dreaming.

In one seductive work, a cyber girl: part primitive, part space-age, who appears in a lot of his images, is perched in a crystal bubble atop a purple glassy lotus blossom. Her reflection in the sparkling water below and in the clear blue air above stretches to infinity. The 3D imagery is created as an image, which is made with several digital images put together under a corrugated transparent film, so that when the viewer moves position, the image also moves.

Besides the digital girl, Hung also presents small porcelain-like sculptures of the cyber girl that are made from fiberglass reinforcement plastic, a material that gives the appearance of clay but has the lightness of wood. Blue designs were carefully hand-painted to emulate the look of classic Chinese ceramics.

However, the knockout element of the work is the large framed images of a man and a woman. This newest work operates in the space between painting and photography. A single naked figure appears like a meditating Bodhisattva. An inner light emanates from the background, as the figures, in calm position, slowly contemplate a lone beating animal heart placed at their feet. Part spiritual figures, yet very human (as you see the fleshy areas of the skin), they are holy and human simultaneously, operating like Renaissance paintings where the religious figures are based on actual human models.

The work effectively combines high and low culture, while raising issues of mortality and the meaning of life. A great work and a must to see!



Taiwan artist Hung



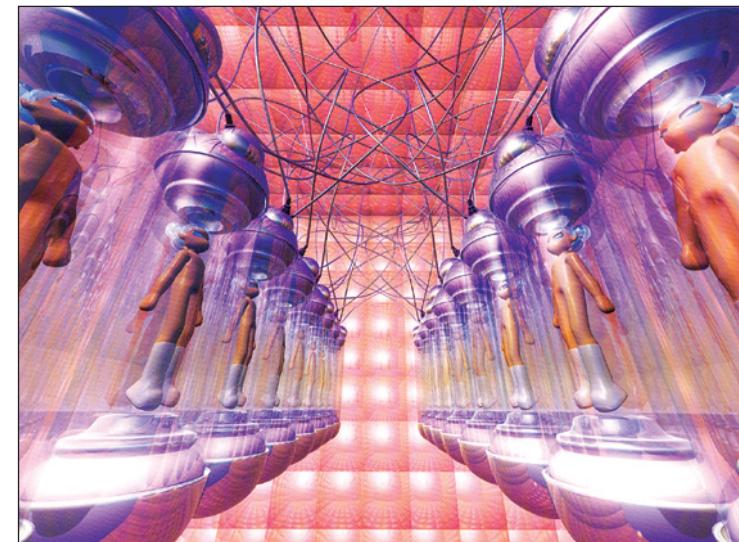
Man contemplates meaning 3D photo

Cyber spirit

Hung Tunglu gives his first solo exhibition on the Chinese mainland



Birth of Xiao Hong photography



Cyber murder-2 photography

Hung Tunglu

Hung Tunglu was born in Taiwan in 1968 and now lives and works between Shanghai, Beijing and Taipei. He studied Fine Arts at Tainan National College of the Arts, where he graduated and gained his masters. Having matured in the sphere of the new avant-garde of conceptual art, he has expressed himself through digital photography and performance from the very outset. His relationship with combat video games and contemporary American cartoon heroes during his youth is very strong and important. He has exhibited his work in museums and private galleries both in Europe and in North America, and it's the first time the exhibition has been shown on the mainland.

Exhibition

Where: Beijing Artseasons Gallery, No 2. Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: Tuesday to Sunday every week, from 11am to 7pm, Aug 05 to Sep 17

Tel: 6431 1900

Art Seasons, located in Singapore and with two branches in Beijing and Jakarta, is a distinctive gallery for the promotion of contemporary visual art.

Cell



By Stephen King

Key themes: zombies, our dependence on technology and lots of blood and gore.

Synopsis: Cell begins with Clayton Riddell, an artist from Maine, in Boston on business. A pulse is sent through the cell phone network so that anyone on the phone at the time is turned into maniacal zombies who attack everyone else, other zombies included. The resulting mayhem forces family members to kill each other and civilization unravels. Clay and a few others struggle to get out of the city. As he heads home to his family in Maine, signs point to the pulse emanating from his home state. Instead of heading toward safety, he may be heading into peril. Stephen King's novel has received mostly positive reviews with the *Seattle Times* saying, "With its atmosphere of dread, its underlying sarcasm about those enslaved to technology, and its finely rendered scenes of horrific violence and human compassion, Cell is another milestone for King and one of the first novels – genre or otherwise – to truly capture the tenor, at least so far, of the 21st century."

– www.reviewsofbooks.com

Bloodthirsty zombies and a band of unlikely heroes... haven't we heard this all before?

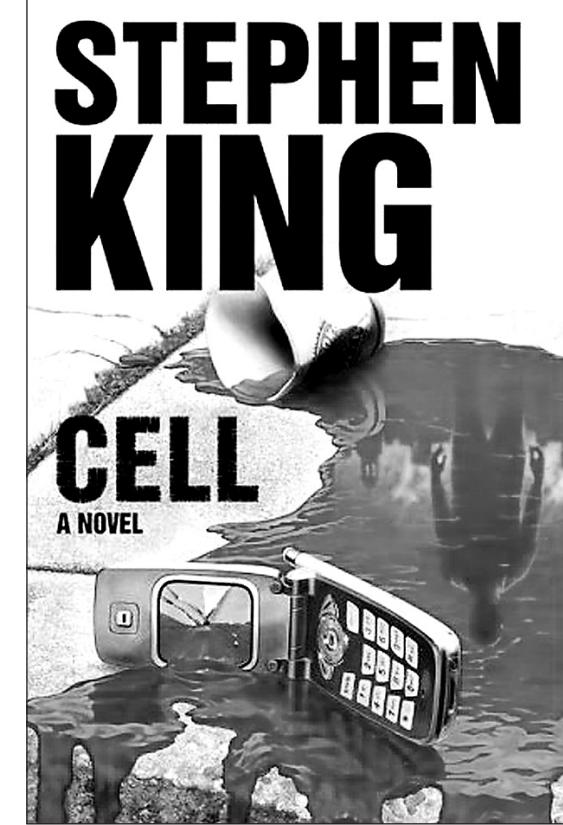
Cell revisits King's thematic territory (*The Stand*, *Pet Cemetery*, *The Tommyknockers*) and pays homage to the likes of Richard Matheson and George Romero (both of whom influenced King) and their most famous works, *I Am Legend* and *Night of the Living Dead* (there's even a tip of the hat to Lewis Carroll). But no one could chide King for simple rehashing or a lack of imagination.

Unlike some of King's past novels (*Needful Things*, *Rose Madder*) in which the author was as guilty as a B-movie director of dragging out suspense, *Cell* cuts right to the action when a pulse – sent worldwide via cellphones – turns those who answer the devices into mindless, blood-thirsty lunatics. The opening scenes of mayhem and violence – in which people leap out of skyscraper windows and plumes of black smoke from Boston's airport color the skies – will undoubtedly recall September 11 for most readers.

With its atmosphere of dread, its underlying sarcasm about those enslaved to technology, and its finely rendered scenes of horrific violence and human compassion.

– Dorman T. Shindler, *The Seattle Times*

Working in an office that buzzes with the sound of frighteningly annoying ring tones (including Formula One cars revving up and China's very own version of the Crazy Frog), mocking our obsession with cell phones does appeal...



"oozing wounds and eyes dangling from sockets" ... sounds like lovers of a gory novel won't be disappointed...

Cell has plenty of gross-out moments and ascends to the level of horror more than once, but it never reaches true terror, let alone the heights achieved by King's best work. While it is a solid, entertaining read, I'm afraid we will need to wait a bit longer for that Great American Zombie Novel.

– George R.R. Martin, *The Washington Post*

So it would be safe to say that this isn't one of King's best?

Cell is a masterfully paced and lovingly observed piece of Americana. Yet, in the end, its internal tensions and self-contradictions rip it apart as thoroughly as any pack of zombies.

– Toby Litt, *The Times*

What will diehard fans think of their hero's latest installment of horror?

Diehard King fans will be pleased to find *Cell* populated by the author's trademark characters (King's most likable protagonists tend to be downtrodden Maine schoolteachers and thoughtful adolescents), although this cast, while promising, stays two-dimensional, just like Clay's graphic-novel heroes. This may be why the book feels more like the first draft of a blockbuster screenplay, *Dawn of the Dead* zombies, and *War of the Worlds* scorched-earth obliteration.

– Erica Noonan, *The Boston Globe*

(By Tom Mackenzie)

Local shelf

Oracle Bones

By Peter Hessler

Harper Collins, 491pages, 230yuan

A century ago, outsiders saw China as a place where nothing ever changes. Today the country has become one of the most dynamic regions on earth. That sense of time – the contrast between past and present, and the rhythms that emerge in a vast, ever-evolving country – is brilliantly illuminated by Peter Hessler in *Oracle Bones*, a book that explores the human side of China's transformation.

Hessler tells the story of modern-day China and its growing links to the western world as seen through the lives of a handful of ordinary people. He excavates the past and puts a remarkable human face on the history he uncovers. In a narrative that gracefully moves between the ancient and the present, Hessler captures the soul of a country that is undergoing a momentous change before our eyes.

Kafka On the Shore

By Haruki Murakami

Vintage, 615pages, 120yuan

Kafka on the Shore is powered by two remarkable characters: a teenage boy, Kafka Tamura, who runs away from home either to escape a gruesome oedipal prophecy or to search for his long-missing mother and sister; and an aging simpleton called Nakata, who never recovered from a wartime affliction and now is drawn toward Kafka for reasons that, like the most basic activities of daily life, he cannot fathom.

King, who says he doesn't own a cell phone, has dialed up his own fantasy about the best thing that can happen to these incessant, mindless yakkers.

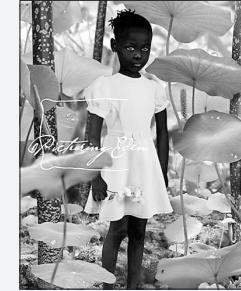
But *Cell* is more than a litany of spilled intestines, oozing wounds and eyes dangling from sockets. It's a soothing balm to the world's technophobes and a disturbing send-up of what the world can be reduced to in an 'us against them' situation. You get the feeling that King sees the world as just one big community of alienated factions waiting for their personal 'pulse'.

King leaves plenty of loose ends dangling, although the final chapters are marginally upbeat. His message seems to be that the technology we use to feed our heads is just as likely to feed on us.

Can you hear him now?

– Carole Goldberg, *The Hartford Courant*

Picturing Eden



Steidl Publishing, 192 pages, 450 yuan

Eden or paradise, that place of perfect happiness, is an ideal that resonates across times and cultures. *Picturing Eden* assembles the work of contemporary photographers looking for their own paradises, some from a place of contemplation and restoration, some from a place of loneliness and despair. By looking at the notion of paradise and the garden through the photographic lens, the book highlights the original lost innocence and the ongoing significance of a humanistic environment, and considers paradise as place in the history of art. *Picturing Eden* includes work from Adam Fuss, Alec Soth, Doug and Mike Starn and Sally Mann among others.

Available:

Timezone 8 Art books

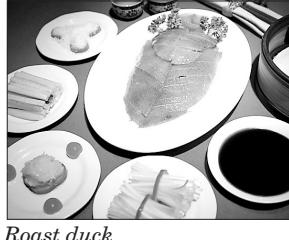
Where: Jia 24-2 Meishuguan Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

Contact: 6400 4427

(By Han Manman)

CHINESE FOOD IN BEIJING

Maybe your travel agency would lead you to traditional Chinese food restaurants in your first tour in Beijing, like Quanjude, Laoshe Teahouse. But actually, Chinese food is more than noodles, roasted duck and jiaozi. Now let's give you some real fashionable dining choices.



Park life treat at Xiao Wang's Home Restaurant

By Chu Meng

Ten years ago, few people knew about Xiao Wang's Home Restaurant. Now the restaurant has become famous for its delicate home-style cooking, expat-friendly service, and elaborate decoration.

Set up by Wang Yong, the dishes at the Ritan Park restaurant, with popular Chinese fare prepared for the Western palate, are carefully selected. Nothing is particularly fancy but everything is special.

The most popular dishes among expats are fried beans with minced pork, deep-fried crispy bean curd with mild chilli sauce and duck roasted on fruitwood. A small menu of house specialties is placed on the tables, featuring recommended dishes like braised, diced eggplant with nuts and pan-fried chicken slices with Hawaiian nuts in brown sauce.

The eggplant dish looks simple but actually goes through a complicated cooking process, which involves frying the eggplant in chicken oil, and separately frying the sunflower seeds, cashews and pine nuts.

There is a terrace in front of the restaurant, which has a view of the park. Taking a stroll in the park before or after a meal is an extra joy. The only downside is the mosquitoes.

Where: Ritan Park, 100 metres from the North Gate, Chaoyang.

Open: 11am-10pm; Teahouse 2 pm-4 pm

Cost: 100 yuan per person.
Tel: 8561 7859

Shark fins soup at Da Dong

Da Dong

By Gareth George

There must have been 50 people outside the Da Dong Roast Duck Restaurant on Sunday. Chunky smokers with greased hair, golf shirts tucked into their polyester trousers. Whispy girls in floaty dresses. Kids running a gauntlet of hair rufflers. The Da Dong, like most big, famous Chinese restaurants in the city, is popular as hell, and (bitter) experience has taught me that where a lot of Chinese people want to eat, both pride, and basic humanity are best wrapped in cling film and swallowed, regardless of what your gag reflex tells you, for the duration of the trip. But the masses waiting for a table didn't seem perturbed. That's because, supervisor Han Ying told me, they now provide an air-conditioned waiting area. And free soft drinks and wine for those yet to be seated.

We were seated at a table, already laid even down to the little duck shaped chopstick holders. The waitress had a comprehensive wine list and a sixth sense for when we wanted something. No one shouted for service the whole time we were there. No one shouted, period.

Han Ying came to check on us and help us order some house specialties. "I can recommend dishes for Chinese or western palates," she told us. Each dish comes in three sizes depending on your group. We had Goose Liver in Aspic (from 46 yuan), which was smoother than Richard Gere trying to sell a used Bentley to an older woman, Chef Dong's Fried Prawns with Spicy Sauce (from 72 yuan), Deep Fried Sweet and Sour Mandarin Fish in the Shape of a Squirrel (from 138 yuan), which even drew admiring glances from the Chinese on the next table. Next came the duck, accompanied by a waiter who demonstrated how to make the pancakes. "Take a little bit of duck skin," he said, "and just dip it in the sugar. You will find it very crispy." We did, and that seemed to please him immensely.

Han Ying returned again to see if we wanted to see the kitchens. Of course we did. We skidded in on the greasy tiles, but as there were about four people per square meter, it wasn't a problem. As we bumped, the staff simply greeted us cheerily. The place was tight and dark, hot as a sauna. "The smell is from the wood," Han said, "We only use fruit wood in the ovens." Each oven can take 20 birds, and Da Dong has two ovens. Those in white, hooking ducks from the rack to the fire in showers of sparks looked more like stokers than chefs, though their work ethic didn't stop them from greeting us either.

At the exit, we spent an inordinately long time shaking hands with Han, who like everyone at Da Dong, seems absolutely committed to making sure guests have a good time and immensely proud of the restaurant. And why shouldn't they be? If you can get a better dinner anywhere in town for around 200 yuan per person, you'll have to get me some more cling film for my hat.

Where: Building 3, Tuanjiehu Beikou, Chaoyang
Open: 11am-10pm, **Cost:** 150 yuan per person
Tel: 6582 2892



A feast fit for nobility at Noble Court

By Chu Meng

Heavily dressed in neon outside, Noble Court is modest inside: nice tablecloths and lots of plants and flowers. Even though it seats over 200, this place gets packed during the Dim Sum lunch hour. On weekends, expect to wait up to an hour. A reservation is recommended, especially on weekends or for larger groups.

This is a Hong Kong restaurant, but it also picks and chooses from other regional cuisines. The menu covers around 100 different dishes, including hot pots, sizzling platters, popular choices like General Tso's chicken and Moo Shu Pork and a la carte dishes from your favorite Dim Sum to the finest shark's fin and bird's nest soups.

New visitors are advised to check out the short Chinese menu offering specialties like chilled jellyfish and beef tendon. The latter is belly meat that's slow-cooked with star anise, rock sugar and soy and sliced paper-thin.

Want to celebrate weekends with Cantonese style, sparkling wines or Moët Champagne? Noble Court is the perfect place. An all-you-can-eat brunch weekend menu will set you back 218 yuan. Wash down your favorite dishes with free flowing Bridgewater Mill Sparkling for 298 yuan or Moët & Chandon Brut at 358 yuan.

Where: Grand Hyatt Beijing Hotel, Beijing Oriental Plaza, No. 1 East Chang An Avenue

Open: (Mon-Sun) 11:30am-2:30pm; 5:30pm-10pm

Weekend Brunch: Saturday & Sunday 10:30am-2:30pm

Tel: 8518 1234 ext 3822



Fried toufou balls with vegetable

Chongqing cuisine home kitchen for racing car lovers

By Annie Wei

Some diners admit that they feel more pampered in a home-kitchen than normal restaurants.

A typical home-kitchen is a small-scale business that opens in residential or office buildings, without a name, no more than two working staff and no fixed menu. Its main attraction comes from the cook and his or her special recipes.

Beijing's home kitchen scene is starting to boom. The numbers keep increasing, according to Vivian Chou, a food editor.

Chou went to a newly opened home-kitchen last week. "The interesting thing was its theme. The owners combine their love of car racing with Chongqing cuisine."

The Chongqing SCC-racing Team Home-kitchen is situated in Soho. The owner, Yan Ge, is the manager. Yan was born in Chongqing where his family had a cook. Yan invited the cook to cook for him in Beijing. Yan set up the restaurant to cater for people who like car racing.

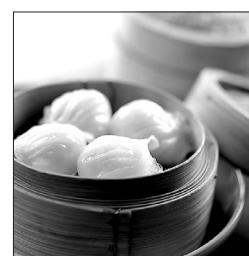
Yan's home-kitchen has only three tables. Diners need to book, without knowing what they will get. "It depends on what my cook will get that morning at the market and what he wants to cook," said Yan proudly.

Where: 301, No. 6 SOHO

Open: 4pm-midnight

Cost: 100 yuan/person

Tel: 8580 3631. Tables need to be reserved one day in advance.



Steamed shrimp dumplings



Photos by Lu Zhongqiu

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20% off

Eat at Xi Duo Wu Japanese restaurant (168 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng) and enjoy 20% off (excluding drinks) until August 31. Three special dishes will be offered everyday. For details, call 8857 7775.



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Take photos at Angel Baby studio (Chengxiang Maoyi Zhongxin, Haidian) now and get 32% off until August 31. For details, call 6822 0556.



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There is 50% off Itokin, a.v.v brand clothes at Grand Pacific shopping center (133 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) until August 31. There is also up to 25% off some brands of shoes over the same period. For details, call 6612 6888.

(By Terence Lu)

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You are getting sleepy...

By Gan Tian

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Think you're a bit of a wild man (or woman) in the sack? Introduce a little jungle to your debauchery with these animal patterned pillows. Raunchy!

Available: 52, Sixth Floor, Zhongyou Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 69-79 yuan each

PERSONALIZED STAR PILLOW

When you think of night, you think of stars. So why not rest your weary head on one? Don't say 'because I'd get disintegrated by the heat before I got anywhere near one', I'm talking about a pillow, dopey.

Available: 52, Sixth Floor, Zhongyou Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 39 yuan

WEDDING PILLOW

Whenever I have something that is particularly vexing me, I like to sleep on it. So why not get

Bababalon pillow shop to write all your problems on a pillow? You could sleep on them all at the same time. You could also wake up with 'How can I get that girl from the 7-11 to like me?' written backwards across your face. Cringe.

Available: Bababalon pillow shop, opposite to Beichen Shopping Center, Yayuncun Village, Chaoyang

Price: 39 yuan

PINK SNOOPY

This Snoopy pillow comes with a sheet and a blanket. Perhaps that's why the roguish dog has the nerve to charge 199 yuan for it. Like he needs the money. Tut.

Available: Quanhequan Shop, 1309, Building 1B, No.13, Beiyuanlu Road, Chaoyang

Price: 199 yuan (with bed sheet and blanket)

PHOTO CUSHION

Lashala Cushion Shop makes cushions that you can put your own photos on. Probably makes a lot of sense to people who have always wanted to sleep on their Mum's face. Or something.

Available: Lashala

Cushion Shop, opposite to New World Shopping Mall, Chongwen

Price: 79 yuan each (not including photo)

OIL PAINTING CUSHION

Sleeping is an art. Crash out like an old master on this oil painting pillow.

Available: Fourth Floor, Beichen Shopping Center, Chaoyang

Price: 39 yuan each

HORSE HEAD PILLOW

No doubt you're expecting some glib comments about how at this price this pillow is 'an offer you can't refuse' or something. But Mafia connotations aside, it's certainly a comfy place to rest your head while you're getting 'whacked'. And you can soak up the stains with the non-allergenic soft polyester fiberfill. Although that will probably ruin it.

Available: http://kropserkel.com/horse_head_pillow.htm

Price: US\$70 (as shown + \$20 US shipping USA and Canada)



Pink Snoopy



Horse Head Pillow



Oil Painting Cushion

TIPS ON HOW TO GET YOUR PILLOWS

1. Choose the perfect size. There are two common sizes for all bed-things: standard and king. King size pillows can be long and unwieldy and you may prefer using three standard pillows instead on a king size bed.

2. Consider your personal preference. Just because everyone's got leopard skin sheets, doesn't make it the law.

3. Consider the type of filling you prefer. You'll need a firmer cushion if you sleep on your side and a flatter, softer one if you sleep on your stomach.

4. Firmness is key. Some pillows tend to rupture after two years or so, while a good quality down pillow can last up to 10 years.

Get a better night's sleep

By Qiu Jiaoning

It's 7am. The birds are running through the first few bars of the morning chorus, so you throw back the covers and the curtains and take the first deep breath of a new day. A stretch or two later and you're ready to face the world. Doesn't sound familiar, does it? While ideally we should be hopping out of bed refreshed, in practice we don't get enough nap time. So we try and appease the God of sleep by getting in a few extra hours on the weekend. Result: a disrupted circadian rhythm, and the cycle continues. I can't take it any more!

Sleep is as important as food and air. Both quantity and quality are very important. For most adults, seven to eight hours a night appears to be optimum, although the amount ranges from five hours to 10 depending on the individual.

Quality

If sleep problems have already interfered with your daily life, it is time to find solutions. **Dr Han Xiaohong from Beijing Ciji Health Checkup Chain Institution**, gives some suggestions.

1. Never oversleep because of a poor night's sleep. This is the most crucial rule. Get up at about the same time every day, especially the morning after you've lost sleep. Sleeping late for just a couple of days can reset your body clock to a different cycle.

2. Set your body clock. Light helps restart your body clock to its active daytime phase. So when you get up, go outside and get some sunlight. Or if that's difficult, turn on all the lights in your room. Then walk around for a few minutes. The calves of your legs act as pumps and get blood circulating, carrying more oxygen to your brain to help get you going.

3. Keep physically active during the day. This is especially important the day after a bad night's sleep. When you sleep less, you should be more active during the day. Being less active is one of the worst things an insomniac can do.

4. Do not take any naps the day after you've lost sleep. When you feel sleepy, get up and do something. Walk, make the bed, or do your errands.

5. Find your own sleep-promoting routine. Stop studying and don't get into any stimulating discussions or activities half hour or an hour before bed. Do something that's relaxing – read 'light' material, play your guitar, listen to music that is quiet, catch a mindless TV show.

6. Take a long, hot bath before going to bed. This helps

relax and soothe your muscles. Showers, on the other hand, tend to wake you up. Insomniacs should avoid showers in the evening.

Is your environment conducive to sleep?

1. Make sure your bed is large enough and comfortable. Try therapeutic shaped foam pillows that cradle your neck or extra pillows that help you sleep on your side. Get comfortable cotton sheets.

2. Keep your bedroom peaceful and comfortable. Make sure your room is well ventilated and the temperature consistent.

3. Make your bedroom primarily a place for sleeping. It is not a good idea to use your bed for paying bills, doing work. Help your body recognize that this is a place for rest.

4. Play a recording of music that has no words, no definite melody, and not a lot of change in the volume. Baroque music is a good choice.

5. Hide your clock. A big, illuminated digital clock may cause you to focus on the time and make you feel stressed and anxious.

6. Avoid bright light around the house before bed. Using dimmer switches in living rooms and bathrooms before bed can be helpful.

To eat or not to eat

What you eat affects how

you sleep. Some foods contribute to restful sleep while other foods keep you awake, according to Dr Han.

Food containing tryptophan raise the levels of serotonin produced in the body, which in turn increases a person's feeling of sleepiness. It is best to eat tryptophan on an empty stomach. Foods that contain a notable amount of tryptophan are: milk, turkey, cottage cheese, yogurt, ice cream, chicken, cashews, soy beans and tuna. Dr Han recommending to try drinking warm milk or eats a slice of toast with peanut butter or a bowl of cereal before bedtime.

You should avoid caffeine and tyrosine-rich foods from late afternoon, Dr Han said. Caffeine, contained in popular drinks like coffee, tea and cola or foods such as chocolate, causes hyperactivity and wakefulness. People should also avoid such tyrosine-laden foods as fermented cheeses (cheddar is about the worst; cottage cheese and yogurt are OK), ripe avocados, some imported beers, and fermented meats (bologna, pepperoni, salami). Also avoid red wines, especially Chianti.

Spicy and acidic foods or eating a big meal close to bedtime can cause indigestion and interfere with your normal sleep cycle, Han says. Try to eat your dinner at least two hours before bedtime.



Laughter is its own reward

A good hearty laugh can help reduce stress, lower blood pressure, elevate mood, boost the immune system, protect the heart, and connect you to others.

Humor is a powerful emotional medicine that can dissolve anger and unite families in troubled times. Mood is elevated by striving to find humor in difficult and frustrating situations. Laughing at ourselves and the situation helps reveal that small things are not the earth-shaking events they sometimes seem to be. Laughter activates the chemistry of the will to live and increases our capacity to fight disease. Laughing relaxes the body and reduces problems associated with high blood pressure, strokes, arthritis, and ulcers. Some research suggests that laughter may also reduce the risk of heart disease.

Get a sense of humor is developed by putting time, focus and energy into experiences that make us laugh and feel good. The tips below can help you add to your capacity for laughter.

1. Look for the everyday humor. Start looking for the absurd, silly, incongruous activities that go on around you each day.

2. Observe infants and young children to learn how to find delight and amusement in the most ordinary things.

3. Increase your exposure to comedies, comic sitcoms, joke books, comedy clubs.

4. Hang around funny friends, or better yet, marry a funny partner.

5. Take a 5-10 minute humor break each day. Read jokes, add to a humor notebook, listen to a funny tape.

6. If you hear a joke you really like, write it down, or tell it to someone else to help you remember it.

7. Spend time with those who help you see the bright side, and, whenever possible, avoid people who are negative and dour.

8. Attempt to laugh at situations rather than bemoan them – this helps improve our disposition and the disposition of those around us.

9. Lower anxiety by visualizing a humorous situation to replace the view of an anxiety-producing situation.

(By Qiu Jiaoning)





Green jade corridor
CFP Photos

Bamboo Sea in South Sichuan

Cookie Wu reveals the home of China's Crouching Tigers and Hidden Dragons

Characterized by bamboo scenery, the Southern Sichuan Bamboo Sea is 'China's National Scenic Spot', one of 'the 40 Best Tourist Attractions', a 'Chinese Biospheric Protection Zone', and 'the First AAAA Class Tourist Attraction'. Ang Lee made it famous worldwide with the movie *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

It's in the southwest Liantian Mountains which border Changning County and Jianan County of Yibin City, and covers an area of 120 square kilometers with an elevation from 600 to 1,000 meters. In its central region, more than 5,000 hectares (3,335,000 sq) of upright bamboo shelters 28 ridges and peaks high and low. Bamboo grows in the fields at different levels and in the mountains and hills that stretch long and far. The place seems like a misty vast green sea. Hence the name 'Bamboo Sea'.

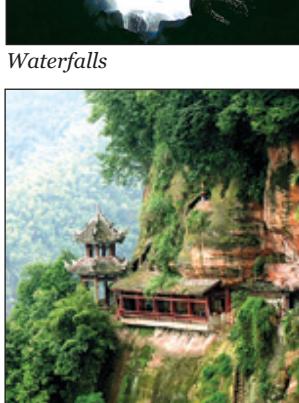
The Bamboo Sea extends over luxuriantly green ridges, especially in summer. In a boundless expanse of waves there are a lot of scenic spots, cultural relics and historic sites. At nightfall the

music of lutes and the croaking of frogs rise one after another – sweet sounds seldom heard in the world.

Green Corridor: The famous Jadeite Corridor, with towering bamboos sweeping overhead and the red road winding through is shrouded in mist and people but still holds photographic appeal. Walking in the tranquil bamboo groves, one hears only birds singing, streams murmuring and the echo of one's own footsteps. One's visual senses are overcome by bamboo shoots, which sprout everywhere in the spring season.

Fairy Lake: On the north ridge of the bamboo sea. The Fairy Lake is exquisite, the water green and clean, and fishes can be seen. Embellished with a bamboo pavilion, a stockade, and a porch on the banks.

Multi-colored Cliffside Waterfall: There is a famous hydrospace atmosphere in the Bamboo Sea. The calabash-shaped inclining valley stands between the Stone Drum Mountain and Stone Gong Mountain



Waterfalls
A Daoist Temple

in the Wanli Village in the eastern part. These two mountains stand facing each other and the valley is high and steep. A waterfall, which is about 200 meters high and four meters wide, jumps out from the cliff. The sunlight is reflected from the steam forming colorful rings of light. So this waterfall is also called the 'Vari-colored Waterfall'. It is high and magnificent, facing the mouth of the deep valley. Around afternoon on fine days, the waterfall is kaleidoscopic under the strong sunshine. It is just like a rainbow, rising slowly from the valley.

The Bamboo Museum: As it's the only one of its kind in the country and most likely the world, it's something one should not miss. Several halls display 30 different bamboos found in the area. Bamboo has been used for countless purposes over the centuries, from furniture and flooring to tooth picks and chopsticks, and some of the furniture and handcrafts are crafted and sold at the museum. Bamboo was also the original source of papermaking.

Get there:

1. Take the long distance coach from the New South Entrance Coach Station of Chengdu, Sichuan. The earliest one leaves at 8am. It takes five hours. 85 yuan per person

2. Arrive at Yibin City by air or train, then take the coach from the south coach station to Changning (every 12 min. from 6:04am to 7:30pm, 10 yuan/ person). Then change another coach to Zhuhai (every 15 min. from 7:15am to 5:45pm, 4 yuan/ person)

Admission:

Food:

Cold bamboo shoot slices in sauce, roasted bitter bamboo shoots, pickled bamboo shoots, soup made from the fungi of bamboo humus, liquor contained in a bamboo tube and rice cooked in bamboo

Accommodation:

South Shu Forest Hotel (three stars)

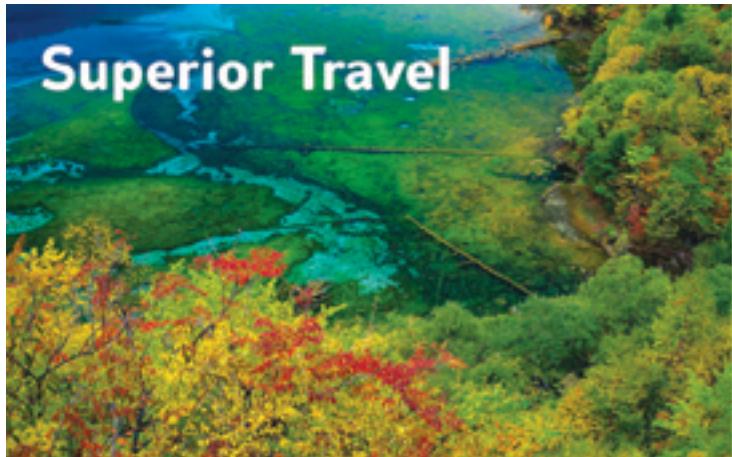
Tel: 0831 - 4980555
Bamboo forest Hotel (two stars)

Tel: 0831 - 4980000



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Koh Samui – a small but attractive island

Koh Samui, a beautiful island off southeastern Thailand, was once an untouched backpackers' heaven, and has been discovered thanks to Bangkok Air building an airport on the island. Now, it is well on its way to becoming a fully-fledged tourist resort, and you can get there easily from Bangkok and Singapore.

History

The island was originally settled 1,500 years ago by fishermen, and its existence was first officially recorded by the Chinese about 1500 AD, in ancient maps from the Ming Dynasty. During World War II, it was occupied by the Japanese for a short period of time.

Due to the long isolation from the rest of the world (little was known about Koh Samui until the early 1970s) the islanders (35,000 inhabitants) still think of themselves as really different from the rest of the country and are proud of their island culture.

Sights

The Big Buddha

The Big Buddha statue is one of Samui's most popular attractions, known in Thai as Wat 'Phra Yai'. It was constructed in 1972 by locals, and sits 15 meters high, giving visitors a place to pay respect to The Lord Buddha.

Big Buddha is certainly the liveliest of Samui's religious attractions. With its carnival-style games and offering various colorful and ritualistic ways in which you can make cash contributions, it is an

important fund-raising venue.

You can participate in burning incense, applying gold leaf onto the image or offering flowers to the Buddha here. There is also a series of small bells around the statue that can be tapped with a coin to bring you good luck.

Where: On the northeast part of the island on route 4171 close to the international airport.

Buddha foot print

Housed in a hilltop shrine, four footprints have been engraved one atop another. There are 163 steps to climb in all, but the view up there of the surrounding treetops and valleys will be worth it.

Where: As there is no sign posted, finding this attraction will be part of the adventure. Take Rt. 4170 and 2km west of the turnoff for the Butterfly Garden. Go up the concrete slope on the left.

Wat Samret

Wat Sumret is a very old temple housing an ancient white marble Buddha believed to be hundreds of years old. Also inside is a valuable collection of Buddha images. A monk will unlock the door for you on request.

Where: west of Hua Thanon off the No. 4169 ring road, Wat Sumret is 200 meters down the second concrete road on the left.

Tips: If you visit a temple, please dress appropriately and remove your shoes before entering. When sitting or kneeling, be careful not to point your foot directly



Big Buddha



The White House Koh Samui Hotel Garden



The White House Koh Samui Hotel Swimming Pool

at the Buddha or worshipers, and always take care to keep your feet tucked away when in the presence of monks. Also keep your head at a level below theirs.

Waterfalls

Hin Lad Falls

It's recommended that you have tough shoes and leg protection for the walk. The falls are situated in a lush tropical rainforest setting. There are several cascades which tumble down into a large pool below. At the bottom the water is cold and very refreshing. If you feel adventurous enough to carry along your swimming togs and cool off after a balmy trek.

Where: two kilometers south of Nathon Town, at the west coast of the island, on the eastern side on route 4172. From the main road it is about two to three kilometers walk down a jungle path.

Namuang Falls

The Namuang One waterfall is in the southwest corner. This is the most easily accessible of Samui's three waterfalls. Choose this one if you tire easily walking in the heat, as you can drive almost all the way to the spot. At the base of the falls, there is a large natural pool where you can take a dip.

The Namuang Two waterfall is accessible by way of a concrete road south of Namuang One. It is considered to be the island's most beautiful waterfall.

Where: 10 km south from Nathon, southern part of the island.



Sponsored by TUI China

Butterfly Garden

In the Na Tian Butterfly Garden, you can see some of the most spectacular butterfly species on earth.

There are also other interesting features in the garden including a bee house which allows the visitor to observe the activities of bees and an insect museum, where colorful and weird shaped insects from Thailand and other countries are on display.

Where: perched on a hillside on the south eastern corner.

Get to Koh Samui:

By air

Fly to Koh Samui with Bangkok Airways from Bangkok's Don Muang International Airport to Samui is by far the most convenient way to come. Samui Airport, located at the northeast of the island, is privately owned and operated by Bangkok Airways and the price of the ticket is high by comparison to other comparable destinations throughout the country, however the airport is a sight for sore eyes.

By bus

The bus is easily the most economical way to travel. You can buy tickets and board at the major Bangkok public bus stations. You will stop very early in the morning at Suratthani, which is the mainland access city to Samui, where you will transfer to another bus for the trip to the ferry that crosses to the island.

(By Jackie Zhang)

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By Han Manman

Microsoft Research Asia (MSRA), Microsoft's main research arm in the Asia Pacific region, conducts research with the goal of realizing Microsoft's vision of future computing and of becoming one of the best computer science laboratories in the world.

Below we interview three MSRA interns who have just returned from a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Bill Gates' famous 'Future Home' in America.

"We have a selection standard for the interns. If you think you are qualified, send us your application. The first standard is mathematics. A good grasp of math is needed for research and development. The second standard is computer programming. The third is having a good attitude. We like to take on interns who can work in a team and have good communication skills."

— Ma Xin, MSRA University Relations Program Manager



Microsoft Research Asia developing the dream



Zhu Jun is a 2006 MSRA intern who led the team visiting America. He is doing a PhD at Tsinghua University. He started his internship in November 2004 focusing on web data mining.

The researchers at MSRA are all very nice and hard working. No one leaves to have dinner before 6 pm and no one leaves the office early, including the interns. My mentor, a researcher, helped me get used to the work. When he found faults he would give me suggestions or ask me questions to encourage me to think about it until I fully understood how to improve my ideas.

What I learnt from my internship at MSRA is that what you research needs to be applied to real life. The best research should not be around some abstract theory, it should have a real value and be able to change or influence people and benefit society. When I first started all I thought about was research but I didn't think about how it could be applied. A good example of this is Microsoft's 'Future Home' that we saw on our trip to America. It is a house that is fitted by Microsoft with some of the latest technology, to show you one vision of how technology can work in the home. And one of the best things about the Microsoft Home is that it's not all things straight from the lab – everything in the home is something that you can buy and use right now. 'Future Home' was really inspiring. I hope the work I do in the future can be used to change people's lives, even if it's just in a small way.

All the people we met on the American tour like Gates, and other top managers, and Jim Gray, the distinguished computer scientist who received the Turing Award, were very kind and down to earth. In the future I want to learn more and create more improvements for people's lives. In fact, there is no notable technical difference between China and more developed countries, so we can be confident that what we are doing is cutting edge stuff.

Comments from Ma Xin: Personally, I like him very much. His research work and technical transfer projects have been excellent. When he first came to MSRA, he was very quiet. His mentor recommended two candidates to come to America. After an evaluation we gave him the chance. He was very surprised to it. As the head of the American visiting team, he worked hard on every detail like organizing the team and preparing the documents. He did his best for everyone on the team.



Sun Tiantian is a second-year Microsoft Research intern focusing on scalable video coding. She is doing a PhD in computing at the Institute of Computing Technology (ICT).

I got the internship position only after a telephone interview. I felt the interviewer did not focus on my research abilities but on my English and computing skills. What I am doing in MSRA is nearly the same as what I research in the lab for my PhD.

On my first day I was asked to join a weekly team meeting. I cannot remember what they discussed because I was so nervous but the following week I found the framework about

the idea they discussed at the meeting had already been set up and even the preliminary results were finished. I was amazed at how they managed to put it into practice and finish the framework within a week.

I learnt a lot with the team and even learnt from a dispute between our two mentors. In our regular team meetings they always ended arguing over the same issue. Sometimes, we thought both of their opinions were

Comments from Ma Xin: Tiantian is doing a PhD at the Institute of Computing Technology. Her focus is on scalable video coding, which is a hard subject, but she worked very hard at it. Her mentor has a very good impression of her and gives her work a lot of praise. She performed well during the MS² training, which got her the chance to meet Bill Gates and visit the 'Future Home' in America.



Li Na was a 2005 MSRA intern. When she finishes her two-year internship at MSRA she plans to go back to Zhejiang University to train to be a faculty member. Focusing on vision-based human computer interface technology, she is doing a PhD at Zhejiang University.

The Microsoft Research internship gave me the opportunity to learn from the very best. Everyone knows MSRA is one of the best places to do research. So when my former Israeli mentor sent me an email two years ago saying he was doing a project, which was also the subject I was focused on, I jumped at the chance to get involved.

The whole environment at MSRA is very comfortable. Everybody dresses very casually and 'levels' don't restrict us. We all call the manager by his name; no one calls him 'manager'. Working with people who have much more talent than you is

very enjoyable. From chatting to them and watching what they did, I learnt a lot. They are humorous and have a different way of thinking from us. My former Israeli mentor is very sharp. The project we were working on cannot be done based on any existing references as what we are doing is trying to create things that do not yet exist in this world. My mentor was excellent at giving some really creative ideas. For example, as in the experimental stage, we do not want to collect data in a professional studio, which will be quite expensive. Instead, my mentor bought some stuff at Beijing Hongqiao Market and

Comments from Ma Xin: Li Na is a very dedicated girl. She worked in several teams in MSRA and has performed well in all of them. From her attitude and the work she has done, we could see how she loves research work. She is also very warm hearted. If other interns have problems, she is always willing to offer them help. She is always the most enthusiastic one when it comes to taking part in intern activities.

reasonable, sometimes we only agreed with one part. Most of the time they would come to a conclusion at the end of the meeting. No matter how much they argued or whose idea was finally adopted, they were best friends after the meeting, and no one will think it's a failure or a loss of face in front of interns and other team members.

Participating in MSRA's MS² training changed me a lot. I received training in communication skills, presentation and time management skills. In the time management class, the trainer asked us how we arranged our time during one day at the office. Nearly all of us said we would spend the whole morning replying to emails and looking through news websites. When there is nothing to do, we start to do research and it is normally always in the afternoon. The teacher asked why we spent the most important time, when you feel your best and have a clear mind, doing the least important things. We found that our whole arrangement was inefficient.

set up a simplified system to get the data we needed. He was also good at solving problems within a few minutes. Working with him taught me to think outside of the box when doing a project and to look at things from another angle.

What I remember most from the trip to Gates' house was the feeling I got from Gates about his desire for new technology, which encouraged me to do what I want to do. The three-day tour was very short; it was not even enough to travel around the whole Microsoft Campus. When we stood around Gates and heard him talk about technology and innovation, the world was presenting a new outlook, not only on technology but also on life.

Even a year on, the desire for a future envisaged by Gates impresses me. Even if he is the richest man in the world, he still keeps a youthful heart and the desire to pursue new technology. Bill gave me the courage to pursue new technology. Even though I encounter frustrations again and again in my research towards new technology, the desire to explore and develop new technology has given me courage to go on with it.

Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

Goodbye, my university!



Wang Yue is a student of Xiamen University

By Wang Yue

Yesterday is the "last day" for the graduates. The school stipulated all the graduates must leave school before today.

Empty dormitories, stacked baggage, discarded books...Everybody is all a little sad, this is a parting season.

All sentiments released in the night. Some dormitory burned candles in the balcony, someone sang schmaltzy songs with the guitar, and someone said they wish the university life could come again while

someone said they would remember their college life forever. And someone even shouted, "I love you" to the person who they private loved.

"Goodbye, my campus! Goodbye my college life!"

I saw a girl pulled the suitcase to walk out the dormitory building while cried today. I also felt sad, maybe the next year when I graduate I would cried like her.

The time cannot come again, we should look forward to the future bravely.



Mark Dodds replies

Dear Wang Yue,

I enjoyed reading your thoughts about graduating from university and entering the real world, as I personally agree with you. We should look forward to the future, and take the bull by the horns (tackle problems and tasks straight away and in a direct manner, not run away from them).

The different tenses of European languages are often difficult for Chinese students to master, as are the tones and characters of Chinese for Europeans. However, I know many Chinese with perfect English, so by being aware of the problem I'm sure you can master tenses too.

You don't need to put 'last day' in quotes, as it is not a special phrase. I feel the first two paragraphs could be combined into one. Also, the second paragraph would flow better as one sentence, connected by a dash (-). 'A parting season' does not seem appropriate. When in doubt, try to use a phrase or words you have seen before in a similar situation. In this way you can avoid

Chinglish or misunderstandings. Perhaps you could say 'because everyone is going their own way'.

Sentiments are feelings that remain after something has happened. I would change the opening of the third paragraph to 'All feelings were released during the night'. Dormitories do not burn candles, people do. You could say 'some students burned candles on their balconies' or 'candles could be seen burning on many dormitory balconies'. I don't know the exact situation, but by using 'someone' you mean that only one person did something. If this was not the case, you could say 'some people' or 'several students'.

You say that some people wished 'university life could come again'. 'Come again' is normally used to mean returning to a place. Perhaps use 'wished university life wouldn't end' or 'wished they could repeat their time at university'. While many things you don't tell or show others

are private, for love we say secret, so changed to an adverb this becomes 'secretly loved'.

Near the end you say 'a girl pulled the suitcase'. I'm sure there are many suitcases on campus, so you should say 'her suitcase'. This would also be an excellent opportunity to use the continuous tense. When you use -ing, the reader does not see still photographs of a situation in the past, but instead sees a movie inside their heads, making your words come to life. It is a powerful tool.

Again, be careful of tenses – maybe next year you will cry like her. In your final line you say 'time cannot come again'. I explained 'come again' above. Some possible phrases include 'time cannot repeat itself' or 'we cannot turn back the clock'.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us. I hope you do look bravely into the future and find happiness after college.

Best regards,
Mark



Mark Dodds, from England, is a teacher at Beijing New Channel School

By Shawn O'Vawldignity

Passengers are not allowed to carry with them contraband goods, smoke, spit or to dump inside the taxi. Psychos or drunkards without guardians are prohibited to take taxis. Be sure to check your belongings when you get off.

Proof, if any were needed, that Shanghai is as capable as Beijing when it comes to massacring the English language, is this notice for passengers in a Shanghai taxi. The first problem comes in line one, which should be broken into at least two sentences. It would better read, 'Pas-

sengers are not allowed to carry contraband goods.' The next three items are linked, but should be separated from the verb 'to carry' from the previous sentence (unless passengers are regularly using Shanghai's taxis to carry their 'smoke'.). Also, the word 'dump' can be a slang term in English to refer to going to the toilet. It can probably be assumed that even the most uncivilized foreign barbarian isn't going to think it's acceptable to shuffle on to the seat to empty their bowels, so we'll take it as read that the taxi company is looking

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see some chinglish signs, please take a picture and send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Psycho-babble



to clamp down on litter. The next sentence could therefore read, 'Smoking, spitting and leaving litter in the taxi are forbidden.'

The next sentence comes across as unnecessarily insulting. Allowing for the fact that most taxis probably

won't stop for axe-wielding maniacs in hockey masks, we'll change 'psychos' to 'rude and abusive passengers'. 'Drunkards' is also problematic. It refers to habitual drinkers, something the taxi driver is unlikely to be in a position to judge. The writer probably meant 'those under the influence of alcohol', or even

'drunk passengers' for the more robust. The sentence now reads, 'Rude and abusive passengers will not be tolerated. Drunk passengers must be accompanied by a guardian.' Not much wrong with the last sentence, so our notice now reads:

Passengers are not allowed to carry contraband goods. Smoking, spitting and leaving litter in the taxi are forbidden. Rude and abusive passengers will not be tolerated. Drunk passengers must be accompanied by a guardian. Be sure to check your belongings when you depart

Photo by Gareth George

Friday, August 25

Exhibition

The Configurations of Ink – Joint exhibition by Jia Haoyi, Yang Gang and Li Geng

Where: Creation Art Gallery, North end of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang

When:
Daily 10am-7pm, until September 15
Admission: Free
Tel: 8561 7570

**Movie****The Road Home**

This love story about a man's parents is told in flashbacks. Movie star Zhang Ziyi made her debut in this awarding film.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Inside Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When: 8pm, until August 26
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 13901134745

**Music**

Hanggai – New Mongolia folk music from Beijing's Mongol roots masters



Where: Stone Boat Cafe, Southwest corner of Ritan Park, Chaoyang
When: 9:30pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6501 9986

Mitabe

Eddie's band Mitabe plays a mix of reggae, soukous and zouk. The musician, from Madagascar, was formerly Cui Jian's guitarist.

Where: Yugong Yishan, No 1 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang
When: 10pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6415 0687



Stage in September

Concert**Violin Concert**

Who: Vladimir Spivakov and Moscow Virtuosi

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, September 4
Admission: 80-580 yuan

The Fifth Beijing International Chopin Piano Competition

Who: Young pianists
Where: Beijing Concert Hall

1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, September 9-17
Admission: 50-900 yuan

Pop Concert

Who: Korean singer Kangta and Taiwanese Vanessa (Wu Jianhao) are Kangta & Vanessa.

Where: Great Hall of the People, west side of Tian'anmen square, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, September 22-23
Admission: 180-1880 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: German Dortmund Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: PolyTheatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, September 29
Admission: 100-800 yuan

Dance**Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker**

Who: St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet

Where: Beijing Exhibition

Theatre, 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, September 22-24
Admission: 120-680 yuan

Tap Dance

Who: Ireland's Spirit of the Dance

Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, September 23-29
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Spartak

Who: Russia Moscow Classical

Model Ballet Troupe

Where: PolyTheatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, September 27-28

Admission: 120-880 yuan

The New Swan Lake

Who: American Carolina Ballet

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, September 30
Admission: 100-800 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Saturday, August 26

Exhibition

Islands of Paper – Featuring the work of artist Carles Albert Casanova

Where: NY Arts Beijing Gallery, No 318 Hege-zhuang Cun, Shunhai Lu, Chaoyang

When: until August 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 13693176332

**Movie****Le Pari**

The story of two brothers who hate each other: the first one is a rich chemist and the second one is a modest teacher. One day, during a family meal, they put themselves to the test: they mustn't smoke for a fortnight. Nicotine-related chaos ensues...

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcui International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 8pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

**Outdoor****From the Highest Water Fall to Mount Yunmeng**

Where: The Tianxian Waterfall, at 115 meters high, is the highest in northern China. Mount Yunmeng is referred to as a 'Little Huangshan' for its picturesque and stylish peaks.

When: until Sunday
Cost: 440-480 yuan
Tel: 13581682703 (West China)

**Music****John Myers**

Avant-garde composer and conductor John Myers comes to relive some old East Village vibes.

Where: D-22, No 13 Chengfu Lu, Haidian
When: 10pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6265 3177



Sunday, August 27

Exhibition

Transforming China – Porcelain art work of Ma Jun and Huang Min

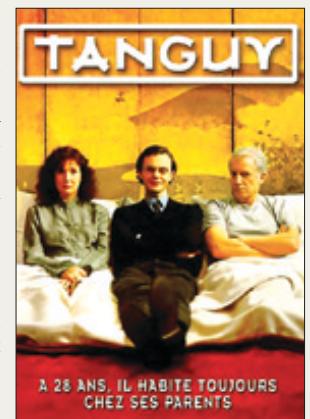
Where:
LA Gallery
Beijing, 319-1
East End Art
(Zone A), Cao-changdi Village,
Chaoyang
When:
Tue-Sun
10:30am-6pm,
until August 30

Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 5093

**Movie****Tanguy**

Tanguy is 28 years old and still living with his parents. They think it's time he moved out. He doesn't, so they hatch a plan...

Where:
French Culture Center, 18 Guangcui International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang
When: 6pm,
until August 30
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

**Music****Sunday on Top**

Music provided by Patrick Yu and his guest Will. Cocktails and BBQ will also be provided there.

Where: Top Club & Lounge, 4/F Tongli Studios, Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang
When: 3-8pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6413 1019

